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The Truth Speaks

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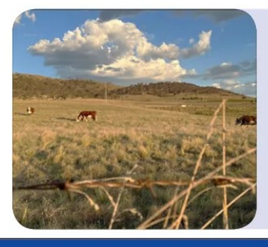

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Donald Trump criticises Israel's Lebanon policy, backs Syria role

Trump says Israel should let Syria tackle Hezbollah to reduce casualties

EVIAN

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday voiced sharp criticism of Israel's handling of its conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon, suggesting that Syria could play a more effective role in countering the Iran-backed militant group.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, Trump praised Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and said Israel's prolonged campaign against Hezbollah had resulted in excessive civilian casualties.

He claimed he had advised Israeli leaders to allow Syria to take the lead against the group if Israel was unable to achieve its objectives without significant loss of life.

Trump also took aim at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying the Israeli leader needed to act more responsibly regarding Lebanon and the ongoing conflict.

> "If Israel can't do the job without killing everyone else, then Syria will do the job."
> —Donald Trump, US President

Trump described Sharaa as doing an "amazing job" and noted that the Syrian leader strongly opposed Hezbollah.

While acknowledging Sharaa's controversial past, Trump said Syria could be more effective in dealing with the group.

He also underlined his long-standing support for Israel, declaring that "without me there would be no Israel" because previous US presidents had been unwilling to take the steps he had taken in support of the country.

Trump-Netanyahu ties under spotlight

Trump dismissed speculation of a complete rupture with Netanyahu.

Trump expressed dissatisfaction with Israel's approach in Lebanon.

Trump said the campaign against Hezbollah had gone on too long.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in the French commune of Evian-les-Bains on Tuesday, marking their first face-to-face interaction in 16 months. The two leaders exchanged a warm handshake followed by a brief conversation. The brief interaction between the two leaders took place as the world leaders gathered for the event hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. Modi and Trump are scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting on Wednesday on the sidelines of the summit.

Kharge demands Pradhan's resignation over exam irregularities

NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday intensified his attack on the BJP-led Centre, alleging that the government had failed its "first test of accountability" by refusing to seek the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over recurring examination irregularities and paper leak controversies.

Reacting to the temporary restriction imposed on the Telegram messaging platform ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination, Kharge said the government was focusing on damage control instead of fixing systemic failures in the education sector.

In a post on social media, the Congress chief claimed that repeated paper leaks and examination controversies had adversely affected millions of students. He alleged that despite concerns surrounding examinations such as NEET, SSC, UGC-NET and CUET, the government had failed to ensure accountability.

Kharge further claimed that several students had suffered severe mental distress due to examination-related irregularities and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of remaining silent on the issue. He also referred to recent controversies involving CBSE evaluation and allegations surrounding UPSC examinations, arguing that public confidence in competitive exams was being eroded. The Congress has consistently demanded Pradhan's resignation over alleged lapses in conducting examinations and preventing paper leaks. The party is also set to launch a nationwide campaign on student issues, with senior leader Rahul Gandhi scheduled to address student conventions beginning in Kota on June 17.

- **Issue:** Exam irregularities and paper leaks
- **Congress Demand:** Resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan
- **Focus Exams:** NEET, SSC, UGC-NET, CUET
- **NEET Re-test Date:** June 21, 2026
- **Congress Campaign:** Student outreach from June 17

The Congress plans to intensify its campaign on youth-related issues, including examination irregularities and unemployment. Party leaders argue that repeated controversies surrounding competitive examinations have undermined students' trust in the recruitment and admission process. Rahul Gandhi's upcoming student interactions are expected to focus on these concerns and mobilise support among young voters ahead of future elections.

Karnataka HC dismisses PIL against Shivakumar cabinet

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the constitutionality of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's newly constituted Council of Ministers, holding that the petition was based on a misreading of the Constitution and amounted to a waste of judicial time.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K.S. Hemalekha dismissed the plea filed by Hubballi resident Mangalappa Hullikeri and directed him to deposit ₹50,000 with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority within two weeks.

The petitioner had argued that since the Karnataka Assembly has 224 members, the ministry should have at least 24 ministers, interpreting the constitutional provision as mandating a minimum of 12% of the House strength. However, the court clarified that the Constitution specifies a minimum of 12 ministers and a maximum of 15% of the Assembly's strength.

The bench observed that the petition was founded on an "erroneous ground" and rejected a request to withdraw it, stating that it appeared to have been filed merely for publicity.

- **Cabinet strength:** 14 ministers (including CM and Deputy CM)
- **Assembly strength:** 224 members
- **Constitutional minimum:** 12 ministers
- **Maximum allowed:** 15% of Assembly strength (33 ministers)
- **Fine imposed:** ₹50,000

Cong hits back at Oppn over Bidadi township project

BENGALURU

Congress spokesperson M. Lakshman on Tuesday defended the proposed Bidadi Township Project and accused BJP and JD(S) leaders of spreading misinformation to derail a major infrastructure initiative aimed at easing Bengaluru's growing population and traffic burden.

Addressing a press conference at the KPCC office, Lakshman said the township proposal was originally conceived during the JD(S)-BJP coalition government headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy in 2006.

He noted that the state government had reissued a notification on May 27, 2026, for the acquisition of 7,481 acres in Bidadi to develop an integrated industrial and residential corridor.

Rejecting allegations of a ₹33,000-crore scam, Lakshman said there was no scope for corruption in the project and challenged Opposition leaders to produce evidence.

He maintained that the government would only acquire land, provide compensation and create infrastructure, while industries would establish facilities through a transparent process.

Doctors are visible gods, uphold public trust: DKS

BENGALURU

Calling doctors "visible gods," Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar urged graduating medical students to uphold the faith and trust people place in the medical profession and dedicate themselves to serving society, especially in rural areas.

Addressing the 28th Annual Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) at the GKVK campus on Tuesday, Shivakumar said doctors play a critical role in shaping a healthier society and must ensure healthcare reaches every corner of the state.

"People approach doctors with immense trust even in their most difficult times. It is your responsibility to preserve that trust through dedicated service," he said while conferring degrees on students alongside Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

> "Doctors are visible gods. People come to you with immense faith and confidence. Protect that trust and serve society with dedication."
> —D.K. Shivakumar, CM

The Chief Minister highlighted Karnataka's leadership in medical education, noting that the state produces nearly 13,940 doctors annually and has 72 medical colleges, the highest in the country. He said Karnataka's healthcare professionals are serving with distinction across the globe and have earned recognition for their expertise and commitment.

Emphasising the need for equitable healthcare, Shivakumar called upon young doctors to serve in rural regions and help reduce migration to cities for medical treatment. He also praised Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil for bringing discipline and efficiency to the department.

Describing RGUHS as one of India's largest health sciences universities, Shivakumar said it has played a pivotal role in producing skilled healthcare professionals over the past three decades.

CM's Message to Young Doctors

- Serve rural communities alongside urban centres
- Uphold ethics and public trust
- Set clear goals and ideals in life
- Embrace innovation in healthcare
- Contribute to a drug-free Karnataka and India
- Become role models through service and commitment

Kakoli's remarks at panel meeting deepen rift within TMC

NEW DELHI

The internal feud within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) escalated on Tuesday after rebel MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar criticised the West Bengal government over child marriage and child trafficking during a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Dastidar, who is leading a group of 20 rebel Lok Sabha MPs seeking a separate identity within Parliament, attended the committee meeting that examined issues related to crimes against children.

Speaking to reporters later, she alleged that child marriage remains widespread in West Bengal and claimed that the previous state government had failed to take adequate measures to curb the practice. The MP also raised concerns over child trafficking, alleging that young girls were being trafficked outside the country. She said she sought information on action against those involved in child abuse, trafficking and child marriage.

"Child marriage is very prevalent in West Bengal, and adequate steps were not taken to stop it. Child trafficking is also a serious concern."
-Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, LS MP

Her remarks triggered a sharp reaction from senior TMC leader Saugata Roy, who suggested that the party could move a privilege notice against her.

DEADLY QUAKE STRIKES

Qinghai: 1 killed, 4 injured in 6.3-magnitude quake

BEIJING

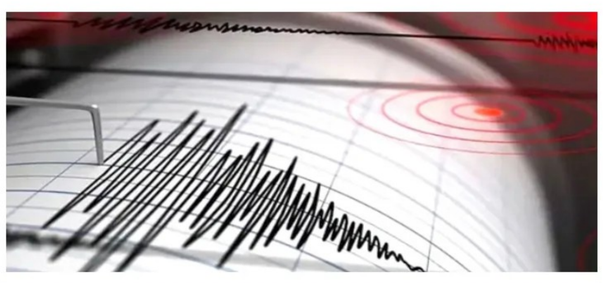
At least one person was killed and four others injured after a powerful 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northwestern China's Qinghai province on Tuesday, prompting rescue operations and emergency response measures.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Center, the quake hit a high-altitude area in Haixi Prefecture at 5:06 pm local time. The tremor occurred at a depth of 10 km and was followed by several aftershocks, including one measuring 4.9 in magnitude.

State media reports said authorities swiftly evacuated workers from coal mines located near the epicentre as a precautionary measure. Emergency teams were deployed to assess casualties, inspect damaged infrastructure and search for any people who may have been trapped.

China's earthquake administration activated its emergency response mechanism immediately after the quake. Officials are continuing to evaluate the extent of property damage and monitor the possibility of secondary disasters such as landslides or structural collapses.

The affected region is sparsely populated but lies in a seismically active zone that has experienced several earthquakes in recent years. Rescue personnel remain on alert as aftershocks continue to be recorded.



Authorities have mobilised rescue teams to the affected area to search for trapped individuals and assess damage to infrastructure. All workers in nearby coal mines were safely evacuated following the quake. Officials are also monitoring aftershocks and potential secondary hazards while conducting a detailed assessment of losses. Emergency services remain on high alert as relief operations continue across the region.

ISI-backed terror network busted in Delhi-NCR, seven operatives arrested

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Tuesday dismantled a Pakistan-backed terror-crime syndicate allegedly involved in smuggling arms and narcotics into India and planning attacks in the Delhi-NCR region. Seven operatives linked to the network were arrested during a major operation by the Special Cell.

According to police, the module was being run by Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorists Shahzad Bhatti and Ajmal Gujjar, who are suspected to be operating under the patronage of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The syndicate allegedly procured illegal weapons and drugs smuggled into India through drone drops along the Punjab border and distributed them across Delhi-NCR.

Police said all seven have criminal backgrounds, with cases ranging from murder and robbery to violations of the Arms Act and NDPS Act.

Investigators recovered five sophisticated semi-automatic pistols, 41 live cartridges, seven mobile phones containing alleged chats and voice notes with Pakistan-based handlers, and an SUV. Authorities also seized details of bank accounts suspected to have been used for laundering proceeds from illegal arms and narcotics sales.

QUICK READ

Teacher dies after falling from Rapido bike in Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 54-year-old school teacher died after accidentally falling from a Rapido bike-taxi while returning home in Bengaluru's JP Nagar area, police said on Tuesday. The victim, S. Radha, a teacher at Delhi Public School (South) and a resident of Arakere, had visited friends and relatives in Nagarabhavi and booked a Rapido ride to return home. The bike was being ridden by a woman captain. According to police, the accident occurred near Nandini Junction on 24th Main Road when Radha, who was seated side-saddle with both legs on one side, lost balance and fell from the moving two-wheeler. The rider also fell during the incident. Both women were wearing half-helmets. Radha suffered severe injuries to her forehead and nose, leading to internal bleeding. She was rushed to a nearby private hospital but succumbed to her injuries. Police have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

Elderly man duped of gold ring by stranger offering lift

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 78-year-old man lost a gold ring worth over ₹50,000 after being tricked by a stranger who offered him a lift during a rainy evening in west Bengaluru. Police said K. Sathyanarayana Rao was returning home from an evening walk on Muddinapalya Main Road when an unidentified man on a scooter, accompanied by a child, offered to drop him near Solapuradamma Temple. After Rao accepted the lift, the stranger pretended to admire the design of his gold ring and asked to examine it closely. Once Rao handed over the ring, the man sped away on his scooter. A case has been registered and police are investigating the incident.

Saint Anthony's festival celebrated with devotion in KR Pura

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The 124th anniversary celebrations of Saint Anthony were held with great religious fervour and community participation at St Anthony's Church, TC Palya, in KR Pura. The nine-day festival featured special prayers, religious programmes and devotional hymn singing, drawing large numbers of devotees. A flower-decked palanquin carrying the statue of Saint Anthony was taken in a procession through the main streets of the locality. Devotees from KR Pura, Basavanapura, Banaswadi and Ramamurthynagar participated in the celebrations, carrying candles and offering prayers. Church priest Father C. Francis said the festival was notable for attracting devotees from all communities, reflecting unity, peace and harmony. MLA Bairati Basavaraj and BJP leaders Praveen and Anthony Swamy attended the event.

HC upholds transfer of veterinary university land for public projects

PIL challenged government decision to allot land for judges' quarters project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the state government's decision to transfer seven acres of land belonging to the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) in Hebbal for the construction of judges' quarters and a super-specialty hospital.

The PIL was jointly filed by the Karnataka Veterinary Association, Bengaluru Veterinary College Alumni Association and two other organisations, questioning a government order issued on January 8, 2026. The order directed the transfer of four acres of land adjacent to Nyayagrama for residential quarters for High Court judges and another three acres for a super-specialty hospital.

A division bench comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T.M. Nadaf upheld the government's decision, observing that the transfer of land was a policy matter and did not warrant judicial interference.

"The transfer of 4+3 acres, totalling seven acres, is a policy decision for construction of residences for High Court judges and a super-specialty hospital for the general public," the bench noted. The court reiterated that policy decisions are generally beyond judicial review unless they are arbitrary, procedurally flawed or contrary to law.

The petitioners had argued that the transfer would adversely affect the veterinary college's teaching, research and extension activities. They also expressed concerns that the reduction in land could impact the institution's recognition by the Veterinary Council of India and affect future accreditation assessments.

However, after examining relevant regulations and records, the court found that a veterinary college is required to maintain around 150 acres of land. KVAFSU currently possesses approximately 278 acres, and even after the transfer of seven acres, the university would continue to have significantly more land than the prescribed minimum.

"The transfer of seven acres out of about 278 acres will not, in any manner, affect the minimum land requirements under the regulations," the bench observed.

The court also emphasised the importance of providing official accommodation to judges, describing it as an essential component of judicial independence.

It noted that only 19 official residences are currently available for High Court judges against the sanctioned strength of 62, forcing many judges to stay in rented accommodation.

Regarding the proposed hospital, the bench held that the project would serve a larger public purpose by enhancing access to advanced healthcare services. Concluding that both projects were in the broader public interest, the High Court dismissed the petition and upheld the land transfer.

Jarkiholi urges caution on Bidadi township project

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi has expressed reservations about the proposed Bidadi Township project, stating that the government should ensure it is not burdened by any large-scale development scheme.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Jarkiholi said the project would be discussed in the Cabinet meeting scheduled for Saturday. While not opposing the proposal outright, he stressed the need for careful consideration of its financial and political implications. "The construction of the township should not become a burden on the government. The government should not suffer because of any scheme. Such issues must be examined thoroughly," he said.

Jarkiholi noted that the matter also has political significance and should be discussed in the broader interests of both the govt and the ruling party.

AI, startups and talent to drive Bengaluru's next growth phase: Expats

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Being an international city with a thriving startup ecosystem and cross-cultural exchanges, Bengaluru is poised for further growth, expatriates say.

Expatriates living and working in Bengaluru believe the city is well-positioned to emerge as one of the world's leading technology and business centres over the next decade, powered by artificial intelligence, innovation, entrepreneurship and a skilled workforce.

Speaking at the Expat Business Council's (EBC) June networking event, business leaders and professionals from different countries highlighted Bengaluru's economic strength, cosmopolitan culture and startup ecosystem as key factors driving its future growth.

Chandra Arya, CEO of Acleo Strategies Inc and former Member of Parliament in Canada, described Bengaluru as a city whose economic and demographic scale rivals that of many countries.

"Bengaluru is not just a city. Its GDP and population are equal to or better than those of many nations," Arya said. He noted that opportunities exist across a wide range of sectors, including semiconductor design, printed circuit board manufacturing, space technology and advanced engineering.

Arya also pointed to the city's rapid geographic expansion beyond the traditional central business district. Areas such as Dobbaspet, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Chikkaballapur, Peenya, Nagasandra and Whitefield are emerging as important business and industrial hubs. "Hopefully, this expansion will happen in a sustainable and green manner," he added.

EBC President Anna Kuhnt said Bengaluru's appeal lies in its international outlook and ability to foster innovation through collaboration. While AI is expected to influence almost every industry, she stressed that human skills and networking would remain vital.

"Blue-collar jobs and traditional skills such as handicrafts cannot easily be replaced by AI. Human connections and networking will become even more important in the future," she said.

However, participants also highlighted infrastructure challenges. Franco Bellillo, Chief Operating Officer of SUN Mobility, warned that traffic congestion and inadequate infrastructure could slow Bengaluru's growth if not addressed.

"Bengaluru will remain a major technology hub, but infrastructure and mobility are becoming concerns. Some companies may look to expand in cities such as Hyderabad that are investing heavily in infrastructure," he observed.

Arya echoed similar concerns, noting that while Metro connectivity is improving, last-mile transport remains a challenge.

Impressed by India's problem-solving spirit

Heike Wolter, co-author of What the West Should Learn From India, said one of the qualities she admires most about India is its culture of finding practical solutions. "People here embrace difficult situations and always find a workaround. That spirit of resilience and adaptability is remarkable," she said.

Dug-up SH-9 leaves Yelahanka commuters frustrated

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A crucial stretch of State Highway-9 in Yelahanka has turned into a major source of inconvenience for thousands of commuters, with residents demanding answers over prolonged roadworks, worsening traffic congestion and deteriorating road conditions.

The nearly 5-km stretch between the NES office and Nagenahalli Gate is riddled with dug-up sections, loose gravel, potholes and construction debris, making daily travel difficult and unsafe. Residents say the situation has steadily worsened, with little information on which agency is carrying out the work or when the road will be restored.

The disruption begins near the Yelahanka police station junction, where a flyover project has been under construction since 2022. While road-widening work is under way on one side, excavation for drainage and water pipelines on the opposite carriageway has further compounded traffic woes.

Commuters report severe congestion during peak hours, particularly near Puttenahalli Lake and Anantapura Gate. Office-goers travelling towards Doddaballapur Road often spend an additional 15 minutes navigating bottlenecks caused by narrowed carriageways and uneven road surfaces.

Residents also expressed concern over safety risks. Priyanka Shetty, who lives along the corridor, said the road has been repeatedly dug up and patched without proper restoration.

"As long-time residents, we have seen this road being dug up several times, but this project seems never-ending. There is no clarity about which agency is responsible, and potholes have become dangerous, especially for two-wheeler riders," she said.

The lack of coordination among agencies has added to public confusion.

VTU shifts Saturday classes online to support fuel conservation

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has decided to conduct Saturday classes online across all engineering colleges affiliated to the university as part of a fuel conservation and resource-saving initiative.

The decision, which takes effect immediately, will apply to the second, fourth and fifth Saturdays of every month, when classes are normally held. The first and third Saturdays will continue to remain holidays as per the existing academic calendar.

VTU Vice-Chancellor S. Vidyashankar said the move was aimed at reducing fuel consumption, easing traffic congestion and contributing to national efforts towards efficient use of natural resources.

"University Grants Commission guidelines permit blended learning in a 60:40 ratio, with 60 per cent offline and 40 per cent online classes. We are shifting only a few Saturday sessions online, which remains well within those norms," he said.

According to the university, the proposal was discussed and unanimously approved at a recent Executive Committee meeting.

The new system will cover all 220 engineering colleges under VTU's jurisdiction, benefiting nearly three lakh students across Karnataka.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that lakhs of students commute to colleges every week and that conducting classes online on selected Saturdays would significantly reduce travel.

"Students will avoid commuting to campus, leading to fuel savings, reduced traffic and lower air pollution," he said.

Government audits Gruha Jyothi scheme, targets ineligible beneficiaries

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

After initiating a clean-up of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, the Karnataka government has turned its attention to the Gruha Jyothi programme, which provides up to 200 units of free electricity every month, amid concerns over misuse and ineligible beneficiaries.

A six-month audit conducted by the State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority has reportedly found that more than 10 lakh beneficiaries availing the scheme are not registered voters in Karnataka. The review has also identified cases where individuals have been claiming benefits through multiple Revenue Register (RR) numbers, violating eligibility norms.

The government has now decided to strictly enforce the scheme's guidelines, under which only Karnataka voters are eligible and each beneficiary can avail the benefit for only one domestic RR number.

Currently, nearly 1.7 crore consumers receive free electricity under the Gruha Jyothi scheme through the state's five electricity supply companies (ESCOMs). The government spends approximately ₹800 crore every month to fund the subsidy.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the welfare programme is intended exclusively for Karnataka residents who are registered voters in the state.

"These schemes are not meant for outsiders. We will ensure that the benefits are enjoyed only by voters in Karnataka. Why should we extend these benefits to those who do not vote here?" he said.

Guarantee Implementation Authority Vice-Chairperson Dinesh Gooligowda said the audit had uncovered several irregularities. According to him, many urban households possess separate RR numbers for domestic electricity use and water pumping systems or borewells. While the scheme covers only domestic consumption, some beneficiaries have allegedly claimed free power for both connections. Authorities have also found instances where subsidised electricity supplied under the scheme was being used for commercial activities operating from residential premises.

To address these issues, the government is considering introducing a Know Your Customer (KYC) verification process to confirm voter registration status and ensure that RR numbers are linked only to eligible residential units.

CHALLENGING TRAFFIC TASK

Traffic duty gives Bengalureans a firsthand lesson in road chaos

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A few hours spent managing traffic at Bengaluru's bustling junctions has been enough to give many residents a deeper appreciation of the challenges faced by traffic police personnel every day.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police's (BTP) initiative, 'Be a Traffic Cop for a Day', launched in October 2025, has attracted significant public participation, with 1,864 volunteers signing up so far. The programme allows citizens to experience traffic management firsthand and understand the complexities of regulating traffic in one of India's busiest cities.

Officials said the initiative was introduced to bridge the gap between citizens and traffic personnel while encouraging greater road discipline and cooperation.

Most participants have been students and working professionals aged between 18 and 50 years.

After attending a two-hour orientation on safety procedures and operational challenges, volunteers were deployed at major junctions, including Haralur, Wilson Garden, Banashankari and Jayanagar.

Many reported witnessing between 20 and 30 traffic violations during a single shift, ranging from riding without helmets and using mobile phones while driving to reckless honking and ignoring police instructions.

Anoop A. Shetty, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic-West), said the response had been encouraging. "Many volunteers chose busy locations such as Chalukya Circle and City Grounds. It was heartening to see young people participate and gain a better understanding of the traffic system. Several also offered practical suggestions for improving traffic management," he said.

For many participants, the experience proved eye-opening.

Syed Ghouse Peeran, a 40-year-old software professional, joined the programme to take a break from routine work and understand on-ground realities. He said manually regulating traffic was far more challenging than he had imagined.

"Vehicles approach from all directions, and if the person managing traffic gets distracted even briefly, congestion builds up almost instantly," he said.

Similarly, 23-year-old doctor Surya Kiran volunteered at the Banashankari junction during evening peak hours. He observed that pedestrians often contributed significantly to traffic disruptions.

"Many people ignore signals and zebra crossings. Even when vehicles have a green signal, pedestrians continue crossing the road, creating confusion and increasing the risk of accidents," he said.

Traffic police officials hope the initiative will foster greater empathy among road users and encourage stricter adherence to traffic rules, ultimately making Bengaluru's roads safer and more orderly for everyone.

QUICK READ

Power supply disruption in Vijayapura on June 18

CH NEWS, Vijayapura
Power supply will be disrupted in several parts of Vijayapura city on June 18 due to scheduled maintenance work by HESCOM. According to the Executive Engineer, the shutdown will affect areas under the 11 kV Ramanagar Feeder from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The affected localities include Ahmed Colony, Ramanagar, Mahaladar Colony, Shivashakti Nagar, Mashal Layout, Kotwal Colony, Poojari Layout, Rajaji Nagar, and nearby areas. HESCOM officials have requested residents to cooperate and make prior arrangements to reduce inconve nience. The maintenan ce work is aimed at improving the reliability and efficiency of the power supply system in the region.

Two dead in road accident

CH NEWS, Vijayapura
A head-on collision between a speeding tipper truck and a motorcycle near the Maragur Sugar Factory in Chadachan taluk, Vijayapur district, left two dead and one critically injured. The deceased, Dharmanna Hosamani and Bhirappa Poojari of Gornal village, died on impact. The third rider, Somayya Hiremath, sustained severe injuries and remains in critical condition at a Vijayapura hospital. According to police, the truck was being driven at high speed on the wrong side of the road. Zalaki Police have registered a case against the driver for rash driving and are investigating.

Police intensify anti-drug crackdown extern two rowdy-sheeters

CH NEWS, Bidar
Bidar police have intensified their anti-drug campaign by externing two rowdy-sheeters, Vikas and Sudesh, for their alleged involvement in illegal narcotics distribution among youths. Acting on police intelligence and prior criminal records, authorities issued externment orders sending Vikas to Raichur and Sudesh to Koppal district. The duo was reportedly engaged in selling narcotic tablets and cough syrups, targeting college students and vulnerable youth. Officials said three to four cases were registered against them across various stations. The action is part of a broader crackdown to dismantle drug networks, curb substance abuse, and protect young people from addiction, ensuring stricter enforcement.

Eshwar Khandre reviews Bidar development, stresses farmer issues

Eshwar Khandre reviews development works in Bidar, prioritizes farmers' issues, fertilizer shortage, rainfall concerns, and law and order

BIDAR

Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre conducted a detailed review of development works in Bidar, focusing on pressing concerns related to farmers, rural infrastructure, and law and order.

Speaking to reporters after the progress review meeting, the minister said the district is currently facing agricultural challenges due to inadequate rainfall, which has delayed sowing activities in several areas. He also noted that farmers are dealing with a shortage of fertilizers, and discussions are underway with officials to address supply gaps and mitigate the impact on the upcoming cultivation season.

Khandre emphasized that the purpose of his visit was primarily to assess development works and ensure that public welfare issues receive immediate attention. He urged officials and stakeholders to prioritize solutions that support rural communities and strengthen essential services.

On concerns surrounding the proposed Kaneri Sri programme, the minister stated that the government's foremost responsibility is maintaining peace and law and order. He clarified that the issue is not about supporting or opposing any event, but about ensuring that the situation in the district remains stable. He added that a detailed report will be obtained from the district administration before any final decision is made.

Responding to criticism from former Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol, who alleged that the state government is financially weak, Khandre rejected the claim as politically motivated. He said the opposition is attempting to divert attention from its own shortcomings, while the government continues to implement welfare schemes and development programmes across Karnataka.

He also questioned the opposition's silence on rising fuel, LPG, and fertilizer prices, stating that such issues directly impact farmers and ordinary citizens. Reiterating the government's commitment, he said priority will be given to rainfall-related challenges, fertilizer availability, and accelerating ongoing development works in Bidar district.

Afzalpur fertilizer dealers licences suspended

AFZALPUR

In Kalaburagi's Afzalpur town, authorities have suspended the retail fertilizer sale licences of two agricul tural input shops after detecting serious irregularities in stock and sales records.

The action was taken by Assistant Director of Agriculture S.H. Gadagimani against Shri Gollaleshwar Agro Agency and Nimbal Commission Agent and General Merchant. Officials said discrepancies were found during a surprise inspection conducted a team led by senior district authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner Ikram Shariff, Assistant Commissioner Sahitya Aladakatti, Tahsildar Sanjeevkumar Dasar, and Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Shankar Rathod.

During the inspection, officials reportedly found mismatches between physical stock of fertilizers such as DAP and urea, records in Point of Sale (POS) machines, and entries in stock registers. The team also no ted instances where farmers were allegedly given misleading information regarding fertilizer availability.

Following the findings, the Agriculture Department invoked provisions under Rule 35(1)(b) of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, and suspended the licences of both establishments until further notice. The dealers have been instructed to halt all fertilizer sales during the suspension period.

Officials warned that any violation of the suspension order would lead to legal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, including prosecution in court. Authorities said strict monitoring is being enforced to ensure fair distribution of fertilizers and protect farmers during the ongoing agricultural season.

Contaminated hostel water hospitalizes four students in Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI

In Kalaburagi, a serious case of water contamination at the Post-Matric Postgraduate Boys' Hostel inside Gulbarga University has left four students hospitalized and raised concerns over campus hygiene standards.

According to reports, the incident occurred when lizards accidentally fell into an overhead water tank used for drinking and cooking purposes. The contamination reportedly went unnoticed for several days, during which students continued to consume the water. The issue came to light only after residents noticed a foul smell and inspected the tank, discovering dead lizards inside.

Soon after, several students began experiencing symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and stomach discomfort. More than 20 students are believed to have fallen ill to varying degrees. Four students, identified as Arunkumar, Mallikarjun, and two others, developed severe symptoms and were immediately shifted to GIMS Hospital for treatment. Doctors confirmed that they were admitted for observation and are currently receiving necessary medical care.

Contaminated hostel water at Gulbarga University in Kalaburagi hospitalizes four students after lizards found in tank, raising serious hygiene and safety concerns incident.

Hospital sources stated that the condition of the hospitalized students is stable, though they remain under close monitoring. Medical teams are conducting further evaluations to rule out any complications arising from contaminated water consumption. The incident has sparked widespread concern among students, who have questioned the maintenance and safety pro tocols followed in hostel facilities. Many have demanded regular cleaning and inspection of water storage tank s, along with stricter monitoring of drin king water quality to pre vent such incidents in the future.

University authorities are expected to initiate an official inquiry into the matter. Preliminary assessments will focus on how the contamination went unnoticed and whether regular sanitation procedures were followed. Steps are also likely to be taken to improve hygiene standards across all hostels within the campus. Officials have assured that corrective measures will be implemented promptly to ensure student safety and prevent recurrence of similar health hazards in the future.

Lingayat leaders plan protest over Basava convention row

BASAVAKALYAN

In Bidar and Kalaburagi regions, Lingayat religious leaders have called for a large-scale protest on June 28 against the proposed "Basavadi Shivasharanara Hindu Convention" associated with Kaneri Swamiji.

At a preparatory meeting held in Basavakalyan, leaders urged followers to unite beyond internal differences and participate in large numbers to "protect Basava philosophy and culture."

They emphasized that the movement is aimed at safeguar ding the tea chings of Basavanna and the Vachana tradition, which they claim are being misrepresented.

Speakers alleged that Kaneri Swamiji had made statements and interpretations contrary to Basava ideology. Concerns were also raised that the propos ed convention uses Basava-related names while promoting ideas seen as inconsistent with Sharana principles. Leaders further criticized the absence of Basavanna's image in some events organized by the Kaneri Math, despite its historical association with the tradition.

Prominent seers including Basavalinga Pattadevaru, Basavaraj Dhannur, Gurubasava Pattadevaru, Siddarameshwara Swamiji, and Shivananda Swamiji attended the meeting. They called for unity among devotees from Karnataka and neighbouring Maharashtra to strengthen the protest movement and demand greater recognition of Basava traditions.

Some leaders said that while a general Hindu convention may not face opposition, objections arise when Basava and Sharanas are invoked in ways perceived as misaligned with their philosophy.

They also announced plans to submit representations to Karnataka Minister Eshwar Khandre seeking government intervention.The issue has sparked debate across the region, with both sup porters and critics urging authorities to maintain peace and law and order ahead of the sche duled event.

Yadgir sanitation crisis worsens amid vacant plots

YADGIR

In Kalaburagi region's Yadgir district, growing concerns have emerged over neglected vacant plots turning into garbage dumps and mosquito breeding grounds, raising fears of a potential public health crisis.

A ground-level assessment across Yadgir city and nearby towns including Kembhavi and Shahapur reveals widespread sanitation issues. Vacant residential and commercial plots in areas such as Lakshmi Na gar, Veerabhadreshwar Nagar, Mata Manikeshwari Colony, Ganj area and Vidyanagar have reportedly become informal dumping sites filled with plastic waste, construction debris, and stagnant rainwater.

Residents say these neglected spaces are now breeding grounds for mosquitoes and stray animals including dogs, pigs and rodents. With the monsoon intensifying, fears of diseases such as dengue and malaria are increasing. Many locals allege that municipal authorities have failed to enforce rules requiring plot owners to maintain cleanliness and fencing around their properties. In several cases, stagnant water mixed with sewage has accumulated in low-lying plots, producing foul odours and worsening living conditions. Residents claim repeated complaints to civic bodies have gone largely unanswered, forcing them to live amid unhygienic surroundings and constant health risks.

The issue also extends to govt-owned vacant lands, which reportedly suffer from si milar neglect, raising questions about accountability. In Kembhavi, newly developed layouts such as Sanjeev Nagar and areas along Talikoti Road face recurring garbage dumping and drainage overflow problems.

Meanwhile, in Shahapur, residents allege improper waste disposal practices, with collected garbage often dumped in open spaces instead of being scientifically processed. Drain- cleaning waste is also reportedly left on roadsides, only to be washed back into drainage systems during rainfall. Citizens are now demanding stricter enforcement, regular inspections, and penalties for negligent landowners.

Suryanarayana Temple restoration revives heritage

KALAGI

In Kalaburagi's Kalagi town, the historic Suryanarayana Temple is being restored to its original architectural style, marking a significant step in preserving the region's ancient cultural heritage.

The temple, known for its resemblance to the famous stone architecture of Belur and Halebidu, is located near the Neelakantha Kaleshwara Temple. MLC Jagadev Guttedar said the restoration fulfills a long-pending demand of local residents and reflects Kalagi's identity as the "Dakshina Kashi" of the region.

He noted that Kalagi was once a Chalukyan capital around 1000 AD and that the discovery of 11 inscriptions in the area highlights its archaeological importance. Over time, the 13th- century temple had deteriorated significantly, making restoration essential to preserve its sculptural heritage.

Kalaburagi Minister Sharan Prakash Patil alleges SIR voter revision misused politically against opposition states, warns voter exclusion risks.

Minister Sharan Prakash alleges SIR misuse against states

KALABURAGI

Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil alleged that the Centre is using the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as a political tool against opposition-ruled states.

Speaking at an awareness and training programme organised by Jagruta Karnataka Vedike and the Congress at Basavarajappa Appa Memorial Hall, he warned that even minor lapses during the voter roll revision process could lead to removal of eligible voters from electoral lists. He urged party workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to remain vigilant and ensure that no genuine voter is excluded.

Patil claimed that large-scale deletions had occurred in states such as West Bengal, and alleg ed similar attempts were made in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

He said party workers had managed to prevent further exclusions through monitoring and awareness efforts.

He also called for constituency-level meetings and voter awareness campaigns to educate citizens about the revision process and protect their voting rights. According to him, the exercise requires strict scrutiny to prevent misuse.

At the same event, Jagruta Karnataka State Coordinator Vasu H.V. claimed that the SIR process was not merely an administrative revision but an attempt to weaken democratic participation. He questioned the rationale behind claims of identifying illegal immigrants and cited examples from Bihar, allegi ng inconsistencies in verification data.

He further alleged that margina lized communities, including Dalits and Muslims, were disproportionately affected and claimed that the process cou ld impact the Congress party's vot er base.

The event saw parti cipa tion from several local lea ders and public representatives, who discussed strategies to increase voter awareness and strengthen booth- level coordination ahead of future electoral processes.

DISPROPORTIONATE WEALTH PROBE

Lokayukta raids in Bidar ex-engineer properties

BIDAR

Lokayukta police on Tuesday conducted searches at properties linked to retired Panchayat Raj Department engineer Chandrakant Kanakatte in a disproportionate assets case.

A team led by Bidar Lokayu kta Police Officer Arjunappa car ried out inspections at multiple commercial properties in Humnabad and Hallikhed. The raids were part of an ongoing investigation into allegations that the retired engineer had accumulated assets beyond his known sources of income.

According to Lokayukta sour ces, preliminary findings suggest that several properties and financial holdings are under scrutiny to verify their legality and origin. Officials examined documents, land records, and other financial materials during the search operations. The investigation was initiated following complaints that Kanaka tte had allegedly amassed wealth disproportionate to his official earnings during his tenure in the Panchayat Raj Depart ment. Authorities are now work ing to trace the acquisition of as sets and determine whether any procedural violations occurred. Resi dents in the areas where searches were conducted repor ted early morning activity as Lokayukta teams arrived and began inspections. Officials have stated that further details will emerge only after a detai led analysis of the seized records and evidence.

Lokayukta Raids Retired Engineer's Properties in Kalaburagi

In a major anti-corruption action, the Karnataka Lokayukta conducted early-morning raids on properties linked to retired Panchayat Raj Department Superintendent Engineer Manik Kanakatti. Officials simultaneously searched five locations, including his residence in Godutai Nagar, Kalaburagi, two commercial complexes in Humnabad, a house in his native village, and a farmhouse in Hallikheda village of Bidar district.The raids were carried out in connection with allegations of possession of assets dispropor tionate to known sources of income. Teams examined documents related to movable and immovable properties, financial records, and other financial transactions during the operation. The searches were supervised by Loka yukta SP Siddharaju, who coordinated the teams across all locations. Officials said further details on the val ue of assets are yet to be disclosed. The Lokayukta will continue reviewing the seized documents before deciding on further legal action. The operation highlights ongoing efforts to curb corruption and illicit wealth accumulation among public servants in Karnataka.

Maski school disrupted over mid-day dispute

MASKI

In Raichur's Maski taluk, classes at a government primary school in M. Ramaladinni village were disrupted for nearly 12 days following a dispute involving a mid-day meal worker and local residents.

According to reports, the issue began after a personal quarrel between Shankramma, a cook-cum-helper under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and some villagers. Following the incident, several parents allegedly stopped sending their children to school, expressing concerns over food preparation and safety.

As a result, teaching activities came to a complete standstill, with classrooms remaining empty despite teachers reporting for duty.

Shankramma has denied the allegations, stating that personal disputes would not affect her responsibilities or the quality of meals served to children.

She also expressed dis tress over students being kept away from school due to the disagreement.

Illegal bar blaze exposes governance failure in Mysuru

2 deaths in Dattagalli fire raise questions over Excise, Police and Fire Safety Lapses

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The tragic death of two persons in a fire accident at an allegedly illegal bar and restaurant at Dattagalli on Monday has sparked serious questions about the functioning of law enforcement and regulatory agencies in Mysuru.

The incident has exposed what many see as a disturbing culture of negligence, allowing illegal businesses to thrive despite clear violations of the law.

Investigations have revealed that the establishment reportedly lacked permission to serve liquor, yet continued operations openly and without fear of action. The incident has raised concerns about how such an illegal venture could function unchecked in Mysuru, the home district of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Urban Development Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah has blamed the Excise Department for failing to curb the illegal sale of liquor. However, critics argue that responsibility cannot rest solely with the Excise Department. Questions are also being raised about the role of

the Police Department, which conducts regular patrols across the city but allegedly failed to detect or act against the unlawful activities.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department too has come under scrutiny. Reports suggest that the building allegedly lacked adequate fire safety measures and may have violated several safety regulations. Critics contend that timely inspections and enforcement could have prevented the tragedy and saved two precious lives.

The incident has reignited concerns over the effectiveness of Mysuru's bureaucracy. Observers point to a recent case in which a narcotics manufacturing unit operating on the city's Ring Road was unearthed by Mumbai Police, while local authorities reportedly remained unaware of its existence. The episode had already raised questions about intelligence gathering and enforcement mechanisms in the city.

Public anger is growing over what many describe as selective enforcement of laws. While police frequently register cases against individuals for consuming liquor in public places, allegations persist that several establishments along the Ring Road openly serve liquor without valid licences.

Residents and civic activists claim that illegal liquor-serving outlets continue to operate under the protection of influential networks and administrative apathy. The Dattagalli tragedy, they argue, is not merely an accident but a consequence of systemic failure and lack of accountability.

As investigations continue, citizens are demanding a comprehensive crackdown on illegal businesses and strict action against officials found responsible for regulatory lapses. For many, the Dattagalli fire has become a grim reminder that failure to enforce the law can have fatal consequences.

QUICK READ

Young achiever Rifah Taskeen honoured with honorary doctorate

Mysuru

Rifah Taskeen of Mysuru has been honoured with an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of her outstanding achievements in sports and social service activities. She is the daughter of Mr. Tajuddin and Mrs. Bi Bi Fathima. She is widely recognized as a multi-talented young achiever who has earned appreciation for her dedication, discipline, and contributions to society at a very young age. Her well-wishers expressed that this recognition reflects Rifah Taskeen's commitment to excellence in sports and her continuous efforts in social welfare activities.

BJP demands complete police system revamp

Mysuru

Mysuru BJP Media Coordinator Mahesh Raje Urs has urged the state government to totally revamp the Mysuru City Police setup following its utter failure to check the criminal activities in the city. Once the Mysuru City Police had made a good name for its efficient working and checking all nefarious activities within the city. The anti-rowdy squad started by the then Police Commissioner H.R.Kasturirangan had become a model for the entire state. However, that image has taken severe beating with no fear of law for the anti-social elements and drug peddlers. It was surprising that how did the local police was not aware of the functioning of an illegal bar in their jurisdiction. This shows the poor governance of the police department in the city. It is high time the state government post a new team of top police officials to restore law and order in the city.

Minority Commission pushes welfare development drive

Karwar

The Karnataka State Minorities Commission has reaffirmed its commitment to the overall development of minority communities in the state by addressing their grievances and ensuring timely action from officials. Commission Chairman U. Nisar Ahmed said strict steps will be taken if complaints are ignored.

He was speaking after reviewing grievance reports of minority communities at a meeting held in the Zilla Panchayat Hall on Tuesday. He said the commission will call officials for explanations if issues are not resolved properly and will also send recommendations to the government for necessary relief measures.

Minister blames Excise, Fire Departments for lapses incident

MYSURU

Urban Development Minister Dr. Yatindra Siddaramaiah on Tuesday blamed lapses by the Excise and Fire Departments for the fire tragedy at a bar and restaurant in Dattagalli that claimed two lives and left seven others injured in Mysuru on Monday.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the site, he said a short circuit had triggered the blaze at Mara Restaurant on Ring Road. The injured are undergoing treatment in hospital. The establishment was operating a bar and restaurant on the second floor without the required licence. While permission had been granted only for restaurant operations, liquor was allegedly being served illegally. The menu itself showed that liquor was being served. A complaint has been filed against the owner for violating the law.

Dr Yatindra held the Excise Department primarily responsible for allowing the illegal operation to continue and said action should be initiated against the Excise Deputy Commissioner, including suspension, and added that he had directed the district administration to submit a report. Reports had emerged of several restaurants along Ring Road serving liquor without licences. Police and excise officials had been instructed to conduct joint inspections of all such establishments and take strict action wherever violations are found.

The Minister also pointed to serious shortcomings in fire safety compliance at the restaurant. According to him, the African-themed establishment had used highly inflammable materials such as grass and bamboo without adequate fire safety arrangements. As a result, the fire spread rapidly after the short circuit. The Fire

Dr Yatindra blamed Excise Department for illegal liquor operations, sought suspension of officials, ordered report submission, and directed joint inspections to enforce strict action

Department would also be held accountable for permitting the establishment to function without proper safety measures. Officials must inspect commercial complexes across Mysuru and ensure strict compliance with fire safety regulations.

Responding to questions, Dr. Yatindra said some restaurants had been promoting "bring your own bottle" practices through social media and allowing customers to consume liquor on their premises without licences. Such practices were illegal and would invite stringent action.

On compensation for the victims' families, the Minister said he had spoken to Chief Minister D.K.Shivakumar and requested assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The CM had agreed in principle, and the compensation amount would be announced shortly.

Turning to politics, Dr. Yatindra said the Congress was fully prepared for the Legislative Council elections and expressed confidence of victory.

On the proposed Bidadi township project, he said Bengaluru's expansion was necessary and that the government would proceed only after ensuring fair compensation and rehabilitation for affected farmers.He also reiterated that the State Government's guarantee schemes would continue, while measures would be taken to prevent ineligible beneficiaries from availing the benefits.

Disruption in drinking water supply in Mysuru today, tomorrow

MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has announced that water supply will be disrupted in several parts of the city on June 17 and 18 due to a scheduled power shut down for maintenance works.

According to the MCC, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) will undertake its first-quarter maintenance work at the Devanur Substation, which supplies electricity to the Melapura and Rammanahalli pumping stations responsible for providing water to Mysuru city.

As a result, power supply to these pumping stations will be suspended from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on June 17, affecting normal water distribution operations. Consequently, residents may experience interruptions and delays in water supply on June 17 and June 18.

Areas Likely to be Affected

The disruption is expected to impact Wards 9 to 16, 28 to 39, 52 and 53, including the following localities: Kesare, Rajendranagar, Subhash Nagar, N.R. Mohalla, Gandhinagar, Udayagiri, Rajiv Nagar Phases 1, 2 and 3, Shantinagar, Kalyanagiri, Areas adjoining Dr. Rajkumar Road, Yaraganahalli, Siddartha Layout, Alanahalli, Nandini Layout, Giridarshini Layout, Ghousianagar, Kyathamaranahalli and surrounding areas

The MCC has appealed to residents in the affected localities to make necessary arrangements and use water judiciously during the period of disruption.

Dalit and tribal groups join Anti SIR protest

HUNSUR

The fifth edition of the Anti-SIR jatha in Hunsur was welcomed with roses by farmers association, Dalit movement, street vendors association, tribal association and SDPI representatives. Leaders released pamphlets explaining reasons for opposing SIR and distributed them to the public.

Umesh of the jatha team said SIR was implemented by the central government with intention to restrict voter rights. He alleged election roll revision powers given to Election Commission are beyond constitutional scope and part of political conspiracy.

Harihar Anandaswamy of Dalit movement said SIR is attempt to take away constitutional rights and weaken democracy. He urged people to oppose it and support the Anti-sir movement to protect citizens rights. He also appealed for leaders to attend concluding programme in Bengaluru on June 20 and urge government to protect people interests.

Hosur Kumar of Farmers Association said the association supports the protest.

Karnataka police book two in cattle transport case

MANGALURU

In Mangaluru, police have booked two individuals for allegedly transporting cattle illegally after a vehicle carrying the animals overturned and led to their recovery, according to reports.

The incident reportedly came to light when the vehicle transporting cattle met with an accident and overturned on the road. Following the mishap, the accused allegedly unloaded the cattle from the vehicle and moved them away from the accident spot. Police said this raised suspicion, leading to further action and investigation.

Subsequently, authorities traced and recovered the cattle a short distance from the scene. Officials confirmed that the animals were safely retrieved and the matter is now under probe to determine the full circumstances surrounding the transportation and handling of the livestock.

Police have registered a case against the two accused under relevant provisions related to illegal transportation of cattle. Investigators are also examining whether proper permissions and documentation were in place for the movement of the animals.

Further details are awaited as the investigation continues. Officials have stated that action will be taken based on evidence collected from the site, witness statements, and vehicle records.

The case adds to ongoing enforcement actions across Karnataka aimed at curbing illegal cattle transport and ensuring compliance with animal transport regulations.

Protesters demanded urgent tender completion or direct food distribution, citing seasonal hardship and irregular nutrition kit distribution delays

Tribals stage stir over delay in distribution of nutrition kit

MYSURU

Members of the All India Jana Adhikara Suraksha Samiti staged a protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Mysuru on Tuesday, condemning the delay in the distribution of nutritional food kits meant for tribal communities.

The protesters said that a majority of tribal families living in H.D. Kote, Saragur, Nanjangud, Hunsur and Periyapatna taluks depend on agricultural labour for their livelihood. Struggling with illiteracy, malnutrition and poverty, many tribal people are unaware of their legal rights. To address malnutrition among these vulnerable communities, special nutrition kits are distributed every month through the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP).

However, the activists alleged that the distribution is frequently disrupted every

year due to delays in the tender process, resulting in one or two months of missed supplies. This year, they claimed, nutrition kits have not been distributed for the past three months.

The protesters urged the authorities to immediately complete the tender process. Alternatively, they demanded that the district administration procure and distribute the food items directly until a new tender is finalized. They pointed out that April and May are particularly difficult months for tribal labourers, as employment opportunities are scarce during this period. They also alleged that nutrition kits were not distributed in January and February, while the kit distributed in March actually corresponded to January's allocation.

According to the protesters, repeated delays caused by tender procedures and other technical issues are defeating the very purpose of the welfare scheme. They called upon the concerned officials to resolve the issue without further delay.

COLLABORATIVE GREEN DRIVE

Mysuru event promotes environmental conservation and green cover

MYSURU

Demonstrating the commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development, the Alliance Club of Mysore Imperial, in association with YuvaNext Aviation Academy successfully organized a Tree Plantation Drive on the occasion of World Environment Day at Gateway of Mysore Layout in Mysuru.

The event was led by President of the Alliance Club of Mysore Imperial, Shamira Sultana, whose leadership and dedication inspired members and volunteers to actively participate in the noble initiative. The drive aimed to create awareness about the importance of preserving nature, increasing green cover, and encouraging community participation in environmental protection.

The programme was attended by Chitty Babu, Founder of Yuvanext Aviation Academy, and Santhosh Kumar, Co-Founder of YNAA, who actively participated and encouraged the participants to contribute towards environmental conservation through sustained green initiatives. The event also witnessed the active participation of the Imperial team, including Secretary Taj Unnisa, Public Relation Officer Gunasheela, and Board of Directors Nitin Subbaih, Abhilash, Waqar Shariff, Afza Kulsum, Md. Sadiq and Yaseen.

During the programme, Gunasheela spoke about the importance of environmental conservation and he emphasized the maintaining of ecological balance, conserving biodiversity. The successful conduct of the Tree Plantation Drive reflected the shared vision of the Alliance Club of Mysore Imperial and Yuvanext Aviation Academy to foster environmental awareness and inspire positive action within the community.

Kheta Bachao campaign promotes organic farming

GADAG

An awareness programme under the "Kheta Bachao" or Save Land campaign was organised in Khanapur and Hadali villages of Naragunda taluk, by ICAR-KH Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, Gadag.

Experts and farmers gathered at the joint venue of Hulakoti to discuss ways to protect soil health and improve farming practices. Scientist Dr. Manju Prakash Patil explained the importance of soil testing and said farmers should use fertilizers based on soil requirements. He warned that excessive use of chemical fertilizers is reducing soil fertility and lowering crop yield.

He encouraged farmers to adopt organic and natural farming methods such as green manure, compost, vermicompost, Jivamrut, Ghanjivamrut, Neemastra and Brahmastra to maintain soil health and improve productivity.

QUICK READ

Scholarship applications open for students

CHITRADURGA

The Backward Classes Welfare Department has invited online applications from eligible students pursuing post-matric courses for the 2026-27 academic year. Students belonging to Backward Classes and Category-1 Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities can apply for several welfare schemes before August 31. The available benefits include post-matric scholarships, fee reimbursement, eligibility scholarships, and Vidyasiri meal and hostel assistance. Applicants must submit their forms through the State Scholarship Software portal and provide the required documents. Department officials urged eligible students to apply on time and take full advantage of these educational support schemes.

Power supply to stop in areas for maintenance

KOPPAL

Power supply will be disrupted in several areas on June 17 due to emergency maintenance work at the 110KV Betagera and 33KV Alavandi substations under Koppal GESCOM. The outage will affect feeders and villages connected to these substations from 10 am to 4 pm. Officials said electricity may return earlier if the maintenance work is completed soon. Residents have been advised not to perform electrical repairs during the outage period for safety reasons. The department requested public cooperation during the maintenance work and assured that power services would resume after completing the necessary repairs.

Lorry crash on highway captured by CCTV

CHIKKABALLAPURA

A lorry accident on the STR Highway near Lakshmipur Gate created panic after CCTV captured the shocking incident. The truck driver lost control after a tyre burst and the vehicle moved across the road. It collided with a tractor, causing bricks inside the truck to scatter across the highway. Police officials said the crash happened under Vishwanathpura police station limits in Bengaluru Rural district. The accident video showed the dangerous moment clearly and highlighted the need for careful driving on highways. Authorities are reviewing the footage to understand the incident.

Committee reviews measures to prevent Dalit atrocities

Collector condemned Dalit temple-entry denial as illegal, urged awareness of anti-atrocity laws, and promoted unity through monitoring meetings

MANDYA

A meeting of the District Awareness and Monitoring Committee was held at the District Collector's office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar to review steps for preventing atrocities against Dalits and providing support to victims under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The committee discussed compensation measures and social security issues while focusing on creating equality and harmony among all communities. The district administration has directed taluk officials to stop discrimination and organize awareness programs so people understand the law and respect the rights of every citizen. Officials were warned that strict action would be taken against anyone violating the rules or exploiting Dalits.

Dr Kumar said 43 cases of violence were registered between January and June 2026, and FIRs should be filed immediately after incidents. He stressed that victims must receive quick justice and necessary relief without delay.

The collector also stated that denying temple entry to Dalits is illegal and inhumane. Awareness drives should be conducted especially in villages to explain anti-atrocity laws and promote social unity. Committee member Somashekhar Keregod said regular monitoring meetings with police officials would help resolve cases faster and maintain peace.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for upcoming examinations. Heads of examination centers were asked to check facilities in advance and ensure proper seating, drinking water and toilet arrangements for students. Power officials were instructed to avoid interruptions during exams and provide uninterrupted supply. Officers on duty were told to work together and coordinate with different departments to complete responsibilities smoothly.

District Superintendent of Police Dr Shobharani, Deputy Divisional Officer Shivamurthy, Social Welfare Department officials and committee members attended the meeting. The administration reiterated its commitment to protect vulnerable communities, ensure fairness and create a safe environment for everyone. The officials emphasized that public cooperation is essential for building a society where equality, justice and dignity are valued. Through continuous awareness and timely action, the district aims to prevent discrimination and support victims while strengthening trust among communities across the region.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao promotes girls' future: Mahesh Kumar

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The Government of India's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, launched on January 22, 2015, continues to focus on protecting, educating and empowering girl children across the country.

District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar said that girls are valuable members of families and society, and everyone has a responsibility to ensure their safety, education and equal rights. He explained that the scheme aims to improve gender equality and create awareness about the importance of girls.

The programme was introduced to address issues such as female foeticide, gender discrimination, child marriage and lack of educational opportunities for girls.

Magadi leader defends Balakrishna amid political debate

MAGADI

K. Krishnamurthy strongly responded to former MLA A. Manjunath's remarks about MLA H.C. Balakrishna, saying that Balakrishna has won five elections because of his public support and political strength. During a press conference held in Magadi town on Tuesday, Krishnamurthy said Manjunath should understand the situation before making personal comments about the senior leader.

He stated that Balakrishna continued to win despite changes in constituency boundaries after re-delimitation and proved his connection with the people. He said criticism over the Bidadi Township issue was unnecessary and questioned why earlier governments did not clear the red zone issue when Manjunath was an MLA and the state had different leadership. Krishnamurthy warned that political attacks would receive a strong response if they continued.

He also requested the Congress leadership to consider giving Balakrishna a ministerial position, stating that the senior MLA had worked for the party and deserved recognition. He said this step would strengthen Bengaluru South district and that he would present the request to senior party leaders.

Krishnamurthy also criticized opposition leaders, saying allegations against Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar were unfair. He defended Balakrishna's statements about opposition leader R. Ashok and said they were based on facts. He also commented on BJP leader Kiran Kumar, saying criticism against Balakrishna would not affect his political journey.

On the Bidadi Township matter, Krishnamurthy questioned former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's earlier decisions and said responsibility should not now be placed only on the current government. He added that farmers were not being treated unfairly during land acquisition and that proper compensation was being provided.

He said some political groups were using farmers' concerns for their own interests. The meeting was attended by Kisan Congress District President Agro Purushottam, Mukhandaradi Achar Manjunath, Tirumale Venkatesh, Anil Kumar and others. Krishnamurthy said public welfare should remain the main priority and political discussions should focus on development rather than personal criticism. He emphasized that cooperation among communities and leaders was necessary for creating progress and a peaceful future with continued efforts from all sections of the society.

Krishnamurthy defended Shivakumar, Balakrishna, and criticized opposition allegations, saying Balakrishna's remarks on R. Ashok and Kiran Kumar were factual and politically insignificant

Guarantee schemes continue for eligible beneficiaries: Chikkalingaiah

MANDYA

The Karnataka government has assured that eligible beneficiaries receiving the Pancha Guarantee schemes will continue to get benefits without any difficulties. Officials have taken steps to make sure that genuine beneficiaries are not affected while removing fake and ineligible entries from the system.

Chikkalingaiah, Chairman of the District Level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, said that the main aim of the verification process is to identify deceased and wrongfully included beneficiaries. The move will help prevent misuse of public funds and ensure that government schemes reach the right people.

Speaking at the District Level Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority meeting held at the Zilla Panchayat Mini Hall, officials reviewed the progress of various welfare programmes. Under the Yuvanidhi scheme, 9,946 candidates had registered in the district by the end of May 2026. Out of them, 8,723 candidates received 88,360 instalments worth Rs. 26.28 crore.

The meeting also discussed ration card changes, with 515 applications approved for conversion from APL to BPL categories. Officials said the process was completed successfully.

Under the Shakti scheme, women passengers have continued to benefit from free bus travel. By May 2026, around 21.64 crore women had used the facility, generating transport revenue of Rs. 603.64 crore.

The state government has also ordered free bus passes for school and college students.

Authorities were instructed to ensure smooth distribution of passes and avoid inconvenience for students.

Officials ensure clean water supply during monsoon

KOPPAL

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Varnit Negi has directed officials to take immediate steps to protect water sources and maintain cleanliness across all villages in the district. He said proper action is necessary to prevent health issues during the monsoon season.

Speaking at the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) Committee meeting held at the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department office in Koppal, Negi stressed the importance of keeping drinking water facilities clean and safe.

He said the rainy season increases the risk of infectious diseases, making it important to maintain hygiene around water sources. Officials were instructed to regularly clean overhead tanks, small water tanks, and other drinking water storage areas. Damaged pipelines must be repaired quickly to avoid contamination.

Negi also advised authorities to test drinking water before supply and stop distribution immediately if the water is found unsafe. Unfit borewells should be closed, and alternative arrangements like tanker supply must be made for affected villages to ensure people receive safe water without interruption.

He further reviewed the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide piped water connections to every household. Officials were asked to complete pending works, including tank construction, pipeline installation, and electricity connections, within the given timeline.

The CEO emphasized that every village should receive sufficient and safe drinking water. He urged departments to work together and complete all ongoing projects quickly for public benefit.

Deputy Commissioner said industrial growth would boost the state economy, create local jobs, and reduce migration for employment opportunities

Officials plan industry-focused training for district youth

UDUPI

Deputy Commissioner Swaroop T.K. has directed officials to provide vocational training to local youth and help them become employable in industries operating across Udupi district. She was speaking at the district-level one-stop shop meeting and the Industrial Development and District-level Export Promotion Committee meeting held at the District Commissioner's Office in Rajatadri, Manipal.

The Deputy Commissioner said the growth of industries would support the economic development of the state while creating more employment opportunities for local people. She stated that the establishment of small, medium and large industries in the district would reduce the need for people to travel outside in search of jobs.

She instructed officials to improve infrastructure facilities needed for industrial growth and begin industry-focused training programs for students studying in ITI, Diploma and GTTC institutions from the current academic year. She also suggested providing internships and apprenticeship opportunities to students so they gain practical experience before entering the workforce.

Highlighting the importance of local employment, she said industries should follow the recommendations of the Dr. Sarojini Mahishi report. She noted that a high percentage of local people were already employed in small, medium and large industries in the district and more efforts should continue in the same direction.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked officials to speed up land acquisition and related procedures for new industrial areas at Shivapura, Kerebettu, Nitte and Uppur. She warned entrepreneurs who had received industrial sites but delayed starting operations that they must begin work within two months, failing which the sites could be given to others.

She further instructed officials to carefully examine applications for changes in industrial activities and ensure new projects do not affect existing units.

Teacher suspended for ignoring election duty

CHITRADURGA

A government school teacher in Chitradurga district has been suspended for failing to cooperate with assigned election responsibilities. Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer T. Venkatesh issued the suspension order against K. Shivaleela, an associate teacher at Government Higher Primary School in Birenahalli, Hiriyur taluk.

The action was taken after the teacher allegedly refused to accept Booth Level Officer duty given for the voter list revision process. The Election Commission of India has planned a special revision of voter lists from June 20, 2026, and officials had directed the filling of vacant BLO positions.

UNSAFE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Dilapidated school buildings raise safety concerns in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

Concerns have been raised over the condition of several government school buildings in Chitradurga district, with reports indicating that dilapidated infrastructure is putting the safety of students at risk. The issue has prompted administrative attention following instructions from senior officials to conduct urgent inspections.

Additional Chief Secretary Rashmi Mahesh has directed Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) to carry out detailed inspections of school buildings across the district and identify structures that are unsafe for continued use. The directive comes amid growing concerns about the structural stability of ageing classrooms in rural and semi-urban areas.

Preliminary reports suggest that several school buildings require immediate repair or reconstruction due to weakened roofs, cracked walls, and poor maintenance. In some cases, classrooms are reportedly being used despite visible signs of structural damage, raising fears among parents and education stakeholders.

Officials have been asked to prepare a comprehensive list of vulnerable school buildings and submit recommendations for either renovation or demolition. The administration is also expected to prioritise emergency repairs in schools where students continue to attend classes despite unsafe conditions.

Education department sources said that safety audits will focus on identifying high-risk structures and ensuring that students are relocated to safer classrooms wherever necessary. Temporary arrangements, including shifting classes to alternate buildings or nearby facilities, are likely to be considered in critical cases.

The issue has drawn attention to the broader challenge of maintaining government school infrastructure, particularly in districts where ageing buildings have not undergone timely upgrades.

B K Hariprasad to take oath as president

CHITRADURGA

Around 5,000 party workers and leaders from the district are expected to participate in the oath-taking ceremony of newly appointed KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad, scheduled to be held on June 21 at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru.

Former minister H. Anjaneya said the event is being organised on a large scale and will witness the participation of senior Congress leaders and national figures. He made these remarks during a preparatory meeting held in Chitradurga.

He said that the ceremony will formally mark the assumption of office by Hariprasad, and leaders from across the state will attend the programme. According to him, invitations have been extended to senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, K.C. Venugopal, and Randeep Surjewala. He also said that former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would be felicitated on the occasion.

Anjaneya claimed that the Congress government's five guarantee schemes have helped make Karnataka "hunger-free," and dismissed opposition criticism that the state is facing financial distress.

QUICK READ

Direct interview announced for various job posts

UDUPI

A direct interview for multiple job positions will be conducted at Manipal Payment Identity Solutions Limited on June 18 at 10.30 am. Interested candidates with Diploma Mechanical and CNC Printing qualifications can attend the interview at the company location near Manohar Bhavan Hotel, Manipal. Applicants must bring their academic mark sheets, updated resume or CV, and a copy of their Aadhaar card. The District Employment Exchange Office has advised eligible candidates to participate and use this opportunity. For further details, candidates can contact the Employment Exchange Office in Udupi through the provided phone numbers.

Power disruption announced in Mandya areas

MANDYA

Power supply will remain disrupted on June 17 due to emergency maintenance work on the F-06 Hosahalli Urban feeder under the 66/11 KV Mandya Power Distribution Center. The outage will be in effect from 9 am to 6 pm. Officials said the shutdown will affect Gurumath, Hosahalli, 100 Feet Road, Hosahalli Lake Road, Gandhinagar, and nearby villages under the feeder line. The work is being carried out to improve the electricity system and ensure better service in the region. Residents are advised to plan their activities accordingly until power is fully restored.

Postal Pension Adalat set for today

KARWAR

The Postal Pension Adalat of the Karwar division will be held on June 17 at 11 am at the Superintendent of Posts office in Karwar. Only retired postal pensioners from the Karwar division are eligible to participate in the meeting. Officials clarified that rural postal workers and other department pensioners cannot take part. No travel allowance will be provided to participants attending the Adalat. Pensioners are requested to submit their grievances in writing with full details, including PPO number and address, by 10 am on the same day or through the official email for proper review and resolution.

Mangaluru MLA Kamath criticises Kharge over RSS remarks

MLA stressed improving law and order, public safety, services, development, and education, urging focus on governance over political debates

MANGALURU

MLA Vedavyasa Kamath has strongly criticised Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge, accusing him of diverting attention from state governance issues by repeatedly targeting the RSS.

Kamath said it was "foolish" to believe that any political authority could control the RSS and urged Kharge to focus on real administrative challenges instead of making what he described as politically motivated remarks. He stated that the government should prioritize issues directly affecting citizens rather than engaging in ideological confrontations.

He further argued that Karnataka is facing several pressing concerns, including declining academic performance in certain regions, inadequate infrastructure in schools and colleges, and recurring incidents of poor maintenance such as collapsing roofs in educational institutions. According to him, these issues reflect deeper administrative failures that require immediate attention.

The MLA also raised concerns about law and order in parts of the state, stating that governance should focus on strengthening public safety and improving basic services rather than engaging in political debates. He said development work and education reforms should be the government's primary focus.

Kamath alleged that repeated criticism of the RSS was part of a broader political strategy aimed at influencing public sentiment. He claimed that such statements were distractions from more important governance responsibilities.

He also made political remarks regarding internal dynamics within the ruling Congress party, suggesting that recent statements were influenced by political positioning. However, these claims remain part of political discourse and have not been independently verified.The comments have added to the ongoing exchange of criticisms between political leaders in Karnataka, where ideological and administrative issues frequently intersect. While the ruling party has not issued an official response, the remarks are expected to further intensify political debate in the state.Observers note that such exchanges reflect the broader political climate in Karnataka, where governance issues and ideological positions often become closely intertwined in public discussions.

UAE Minister visits Thumbay Medicity highlights healthcare growth

AJMAN

UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi visited Thumbay Medicity in Ajman, where he reviewed the integrated healthcare, medical education, and research ecosystem developed by Thumbay Group.

The minister was received by Dr Thumbay Moideen, Founder-President of Thumbay Group, along with Akbar Moideen Thumbay, Vice-President of the group's Healthcare Division, and senior academic and clinical leaders. During the visit, he toured key facilities including Gulf Medical University and its associated teaching hospitals, which form a central part of the medical city's infrastructure.

District holds preliminary meeting for Yoga Day planning

CHITRADURGA

The district administration has begun full preparations for the International Yoga Day celebrations scheduled on June 21, with officials calling for coordinated efforts to make the event a success. Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy urged all departments, organizations, and the public to actively participate.

He was speaking while chairing a preliminary meeting held at the District Collector's office hall in Chitradurga on Tuesday. He said that strong coordination between departments and yoga institutions is essential for smooth conduct of the programme.

This year, the main event will be held at the Government Science College ground instead of the earlier venue at the old secondary school premises. The decision was taken due to other arrangements at the previous location. Kumaraswamy instructed officials to prepare a well-equipped stage, proper mats, and seating arrangements for dignitaries and participants.

He also directed the city council to clean the ground in advance. The Horticulture Department was asked to decorate the stage with potted plants. As a safety measure, ambulance services, fire engines, and medical staff will be stationed at the venue.

A large awareness rally will be held on June 20 at 7 am from the Deputy Commissioner's office premises.

Guarantee schemes will continue says K Raju

Raju said Grihalakshmi records are being updated after beneficiary deaths, noting Rs 3.31 crore wrongly credited in Ramanagara and efforts to ensure transparency

RAMANAGARA

Former MLA and District Guarantee Implementation Committee President K. Raju has clarified that the state government's five guarantee schemes will continue without any interruption, dismissing opposition claims as false propaganda. He made these remarks during a press conference held at his office in the Zilla Panchayat Bhavan on Tuesday.

He said the Congress government has successfully implemented the five guarantee schemes after coming to power, and their benefits have reached households across the state. He strongly denied rumours that the schemes would be stopped and said the opposition was misleading the public for political gain.

Raju also spoke about the Grihalakshmi scheme and said around 2.80 lakh women beneficiaries in the state had passed away, which has led to a revision process of the beneficiary list. He said the government is updating records to ensure benefits reach the right people and prevent misuse of funds.

He stated that in Ramanagara district alone, Rs 3.31 crore had been wrongly transferred to accounts of deceased beneficiaries. He said officials and Anganwadi workers are now collecting accurate information from villages to correct such errors and maintain transparency in welfare delivery.

Responding to political criticism, Raju questioned former Chief Minister and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, asking him not to indulge in politics of jealousy. He also commented on claims regarding wealth and challenged Kumaraswamy to explain how he built his assets over the years. He said leaders should focus on development rather than personal attacks.

He further defended Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, stating that allegations of corruption were politically motivated. He also criticized opposition leaders R. Ashok and others, urging them to speak responsibly and support development work in the state instead of making baseless statements.

Raju also demanded that senior leader H.C. Balakrishna be given a ministerial position, saying it would help strengthen development efforts in the district. He expressed confidence that Balakrishna would be included in the next cabinet expansion.

Several committee members and local leaders were present at the press conference. The meeting concluded with a call to focus on welfare programs, ensure proper implementation of government schemes, and avoid unnecessary political disputes that could mislead the public and affect development progress across the region.

Voter list revision drive seeks public support

KARWAR

The special comprehensive revision of the voter list in the district will begin from June 20, as directed by the Election Commission of India, District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner K. Lakshmi Priya said. She appealed to the public to cooperate fully so that the process is completed within the scheduled time frame.

Speaking at a press conference held at the District Collector's office hall on Tuesday, she said Booth Level Officers will visit households from June 30 to July 29 to distribute pre-filled enumeration forms and collect completed applications. Each household will be visited three times to ensure proper collection and submission of forms.

She explained that voters must sign the two copies of the enumeration form along with BLOs and provide a recent colour photograph. One copy will be collected by the BLO, while the other can be kept by voters for reference. She clarified that no additional documents are required during the process.

The Deputy Commissioner warned that if the filled forms are not returned, the names of individuals will not be included in the draft voter list. She said voter participation is essential to ensure no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral roll.

Officials have appointed 6 Voter Registration Officers, 12 Assistant Officers, 1,445 Booth Level Officers and 144 supervisors to carry out the revision work. In addition, nodal officers have been assigned at district, constituency and hobli levels to monitor the process.

Lakshmi Priya informed that political parties have appointed 2,822 Booth Level Agents to assist in the exercise. The district currently has 12,30,016 registered voters, and 93.47 percent of voter data has already been verified as part of preliminary mapping work.

She added that the draft electoral roll will be published on August 5, followed by a period for claims and objections until September 4. These objections will be resolved by October 3, and the final voter list will be released on October 7.She reminded citizens that any Indian citizen aged 18 years or above, who is not disqualified under law, is eligible to register.

Bidar Minister Khandre addresses voter and farm issues

BIDAR

In Bidar, Karnataka Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said the government is committed to protecting voters' rights while also addressing concerns over delayed monsoon rains and fertilizer availability.

Speaking to reporters, Khandre emphasized that safeguarding democratic rights and ensuring no eligible voter is excluded from electoral rolls remains a priority. He said the government is closely monitoring voter list issues and taking necessary steps to prevent injustice in the electoral process.

The minister also noted that discussions were held with representatives of various groups who visited the Congress party office. He said the party is currently focused on strengthening its organisational structure and addressing public grievances related to governance and development.

On agricultural concerns, Khandre acknowledged growing anxiety among farmers due to delayed rainfall and reports of fertilizer shortages across parts of Karnataka.

WIM Mangaluru president Ayesha Yasmin said rising fuel and essential prices strain families, urging government relief for vulnerable groups

MANGALURU WOMEN PROTEST LPG PRICE HIKE

MANGALURU

In Mangaluru, activists of the Women India Movement (WIM) staged a protest in front of the taluk office against the recent hike in LPG cooking gas prices and central government policies they described as anti-people.

The demonstrators alleged that rising costs of essential commodities have placed a heavy burden on daily wage workers, women, and middle-class families. Holding placards and raising slogans, they demanded immediate relief measures to control inflation and reduce the financial strain on households.'

WIM Mangaluru city president Ayesha Yasmin said continuous price increases in cooking gas and other essentials have made it difficult for ordinary families to manage basic expenses. She urged the government to take urgent steps to address the rising cost of living and provide targeted support to vulnerable sections of society.

SDPI Mangaluru city district vice president Ayesha Bajpe also addressed the gathering, stating that economic policies at the national level have worsened conditions for working-class people. She called for reforms that prioritize public welfare and reduce financial pressure on low-income groups.

WIM state general secretary Nasriya Bellare criticised what she described as the government's lack of response to inflation, unemployment, and other socio-economic challenges. She said these issues are disproportionately affecting women and demanded swift corrective action.

The protest saw participation from WIM leaders, activists, and members of the public, who collectively called for immediate policy interventions to control rising prices.

Authorities were present to monitor the demonstration, which remained peaceful. The organisers said they would continue their agitation if their demands for price relief and policy changes are not addressed.

Garbage workers stumble upon large bullet cache

BELAGAVI

In a surprising incident in Belagavi city, civic workers sorting waste at an industrial area found 59 used bullets mixed in a garbage pile. The discovery immediately alarmed the workers, who informed the local police.

Police from the Udyambag station arrived and secured the site. Initial checks created confusion as officers tried to determine how such a large number of spent cartridges ended up in household waste.

Later investigations revealed that the ammunition was linked to a retired soldier originally from Vijayapura, who had reportedly brought the used cartridges to his relatives' home to show children as part of curiosity and explanation. When the family later vacated the house, they mistakenly discarded the items along with other waste, leading to the recovery at the dump site. Police said that all 59 bullets were already spent and posed no immediate danger, though verification continues as part of standard procedure. The incident has drawn attention in the region as authorities continue to examine how military ammunition entered civilian waste streams in the first place.

Officials are also reviewing whether any procedural lapses occurred in handling of the cartridges after they were brought from the residence. According to preliminary findings, the materials were not active explosives but empty shell casings previously fired at a controlled environment. Residents of the industrial area expressed surprise and concern over the discovery, prompting renewed discussions on waste segregation safety protocols in the city.

Authorities have assured the public that there is no threat to safety and that the investigation will clarify all circumstances surrounding the incident. The case remains under active review by local police teams as they trace the chain of custody of the recovered items and record statements from involved individuals.

Further updates are expected after detailed forensic examination concludes. investigation continues.

Sindhanur farmers block road over maize payment delay

SINDHANUR

In Raichur's Sindhanur taluk, farmers staged a road blockade demanding immediate release of pending payments for maize supplied to government procurement centres.

The protest, held near the Pothnal–Balaganur Cross on the Raichur road, was organised under the banner of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene. The agitation disrupted traffic for over an hour, causing long vehicle queues and inconvenience to commuters, while police struggled to restore order.

Farmers alleged that despite supplying maize nearly three months ago, payments had not been credited to their bank accounts. They said the delay had created severe financial stress, particularly during the ongoing monsoon season when funds are urgently needed for sowing and other agricultural activities.

Addressing the gathering, farmer leaders said cultivators invest heavily in seeds, labour, and inputs, but are forced to wait months after selling their produce. They warned that continued delays were pushing many farmers toward private moneylenders, increasing their debt burden.

Protesters questioned how agriculture could be sustained if payments were not released even after several months, and demanded a fixed timeline for settlement of procurement dues. They urged the government to clear all pending payments immediately and ensure a more reliable system in future procurement cycles.

Tahsildar Arun H. Desai visited the protest site and received a memorandum from the farmers, assuring them that their grievances would be forwarded to higher authorities for action. Police, led by CPI Vinayak and PSI Eriyappa, maintained tight security to prevent escalation.

QUICK READ

Pakistan spy agency uses women for terror

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's spy agency, the ISI, is changing its tactics because it is running out of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. Security forces have successfully stopped border crossings, leaving local terror groups desperate for fresh blood. To fix this, the ISI is now quietly forming a secret, all-women network to secretly recruit local youth. Officials say women are being used because their gentle approach makes it much easier to brainwash young people without raising suspicion. However, Indian intelligence agencies are already on high alert, watching these moves closely to destroy the new plot before it can grow.

Delhi police catch cybercrime gang

NEW DELHI

Delhi's cyber police have smashed a major national fraud network by arresting ten criminals. The gang targeted jobless and poor people, tricking them into opening bank accounts with false promises of employment. Once opened, the fraudsters grabbed the checkbooks, ATM cards, and online passwords to hide stolen scam money. The racket collapsed after a Kerala woman lost two lakh rupees, leading police to the gang's doorstep. Officers seized eleven POS machines, twelve phones, and dozens of debit cards. Authorities are now warning citizens never to share or sell their banking details to strangers.

Purulia police nab fake ticket operators

KOLKATA

Purulia police have smashed a major fake lottery scam by arresting two men who evaded capture for a year. The culprits, Shakti Yadav and Ganesh Sau, printed high-quality fake tickets that looked exactly like real ones. They targeted rural buyers and offered massive commissions to local sellers to expand their illegal business. Police caught the duo during a sudden raid and seized over ten lakh rupees in cash. Investigators reveal the scam has deep roots stretching into neighboring Jharkhand. Both suspects are now in custody as officer's work to dismantle the entire interstate fraud network.

DGP Anand directs inter-agency monsoon response plan

Telangana police are coordinating with civic agencies to prevent flooding and traffic disruptions during heavy monsoon rains.

HYDERABAD

With heavy monsoon rains hitting the state, Telangana's top police official is taking no chances. Director General of Police C.V. Anand met with city leaders to build a solid shield against urban flooding and the chaotic traffic jams that usually follow.

During a major meeting in Malkampet, DGP Anand ordered multiple departments to work as one team. He told officers to watch low-lying zones and busy roads like hawks. The goal is simple, keep vehicles moving and keep citizens safe. If a road floods, the police must instantly share alternative routes with the public. Emergency response teams are now on high alert, ready to jump into action the moment a storm hits.

To fix things on the ground, special engineering teams are already inspecting troubled areas.

They are visiting known flood hotspots, including Khajaguda Lake and regions near Biodiversity Junction. These teams will check blocked drains, illegal constructions, and bad water flow, then quickly submit reports with quick fixes and permanent solutions.

Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy and top municipal chiefs also attended the session.

The DGP sent a very clear message to every officer stating, zero negligence will be tolerated. Public safety is the absolute number one priority until the rainy season ends. With better coordination between the police, water experts, and city planners, Hyderabad aims to stay dry and moving this year.

Annamalai slams extreme NEET exam security rules

CHENNAI

K. Annamalai criticizes strict security plans for the NEET retest, calling them excessive and warning they may increase stress and anxiety among students.

Politician K. Annamalai has openly criticized the intense security rules planned for the upcoming NEET retest on June 21. While the government wants to stop cheating, Annamalai warns that these "military-style" measures will only terrify students who are already facing immense pressure.

The government plans to use central armed forces, Indian Air Force transport, biometric scans, and strict AI face-tracking cameras. Even the Prime Minister's Office will directly monitor the test. Annamalai argued that these dramatic operations belong in high-security war zones, not inside regular school classrooms during an academic entrance test.

He pointed out that making students go through multiple intense body searches before entering centers will make them incredibly nervous. Additionally, the government has extended the test time to 195 minutes. Annamalai believes this extra time, mixed with rigid rules, creates a painful burden instead of helping. He stated this aggressive approach goes completely against national policies that aim to reduce student anxiety.

To make matters worse, many students are already stressed out because they are struggling to download their exam hall tickets. Annamalai urged authorities to find a fair balance. He emphasized that protecting the absolute honesty of the exam is important, but protecting the mental health of young students must matter just as much.

CM Naidu pitches Andhra Pradesh as semiconductor hub

SINGAPORE

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu invited Singapore-based entrepreneurs to explore investment opportunities in the state, describing Andhra Pradesh as an ideal destination for semiconductor manufacturing. Speaking at the Semicon Ecosystem roundtable conference during his two-day visit to Singapore, Naidu said the state is focused on a "Speed of Doing Business" approach aimed at attracting global investors. He stressed that India remains a secure and reliable destination for international investments, adding that Andhra Pradesh offers a supportive environment for industries.

The Chief Minister urged business leaders to visit the state within the next 30 days to review policies and assess opportunities firsthand. He said the timing is right for new investments and highlighted the state's plans to strengthen its semiconductor ecosystem. Naidu also announced that a semiconductor manufacturing plant will soon be established in the Rayalaseema region. He said the area has the potential to emerge as a hub for defence, aerospace, electronics, fighter jet production, and automobile manufacturing.

Representatives from several semiconductor companies attended the meeting and discussed industry prospects with government officials. Later, Naidu unveiled a book titled CBN@361 Degrees: Polymath at an event organised by the Kakatiya Cultural Association. He presented the first copies to India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, Minister P. Narayana, and association representatives. Written by Sakhamuru Srinivasa Prasad and translated into English by retired IAS officer K.V. Satyanarayana, the book examines Naidu's leadership decisions and development vision. The author compared his decision-making style with noted global leaders, highlighting Amaravati planning.

Adani-operated Navi Mumbai and Guwahati airports were named among the world's most beautiful airports in 2026.

Adani airports win prestigious global design awards

MUMBAI

Two airports developed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited have earned spots on the world stage. Navi Mumbai International Airport and Terminal 2 of Guwahati's Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport have been featured in the famous Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026.

Announced at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, this annual award honors outstanding architecture. It celebrates projects that beautifully mix innovation, cultural identity, and sustainability. This recognition places the company among elite global operators who are completely transforming modern air travel.

The upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport Terminal 1 won praise for its unique lotus-inspired design. It mixes futuristic technology with art to serve as a world-class gateway for India's growing economy. Meanwhile, Guwahati's Terminal 2 was celebrated for its stunning architecture inspired by the local "Bamboo Orchid." This sustainable design serves as a beautiful tribute to the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of Northeast India.

The global award honors new airports that promote smart sustainability, where local culture perfectly blends with environmental care. Only a few select hubs make this prestigious list each year. Other winners on the 2026 list include major airports located in the United States, China, Germany, and Cambodia. By securing these spots, Adani has proven its strong commitment to building gorgeous, eco-friendly aviation hubs that boost regional tourism and economic growth.

Abhishek Banerjee questioned over poll violence case

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee appeared before the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department. The Lok Sabha member is being questioned at the CID headquarters in Kolkata over an FIR involving alleged inflammatory remarks made against Union Home Minister Amit Shah before the recent assembly elections.

Banerjee arrived at the Bhabani Bhavan office slightly ahead of his noon deadline. He signed the visitors' book before heading inside to face the interrogation team. Senior investigators had already spent over two hours questioning the high-profile politician about his campaign speeches.

NDA leaders celebrate Slovakia honour for Modi

NEW DELHI

National Democratic Alliance leaders are celebrating after Slovakia awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi its highest civilian honour. The Order of the White Double Cross was presented during his historic state visit to the Central European nation, marking a major milestone in global diplomacy.

Reacting to the news, prominent alliance leaders stated that this grand award belongs to every single Indian citizen. Union Minister Giriraj Singh noted that Slovakia is now the 33rd country to bestow its top national honor upon the Prime Minister. He emphasized that this recognition reflects India's rising prestige and the growing global influence of its 1.5 billion people.

Other key leaders, including Chirag Paswan and Ramdas Athawale, echoed this pride. They stated that when a foreign nation honors the Prime Minister, it recognizes the entire country's strength rather than just an individual.

Observers highlighted that Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Slovakia, an event set to heavily boost economic and strategic ties between the two countries.

Local politicians and community leaders also praised the achievement, stating that the Prime Minister's global credibility has never been stronger. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak added that the award proves the Prime Minister remains one of the world's most popular leaders.

AJUP Chief Kabir questions rebel MPs' party switch

KOLKATA

Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) chief Humayun Kabir criticised 20 former Trinamool Congress Members of Parliament who recently decided to join the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI), saying they should have resigned from their seats before switching political sides. The rebel MPs had announced their decision to join the Tripura-based party and formally informed the Lok Sabha Speaker through a letter submitted recently.

Reacting to the development, Kabir said that the MPs were elected on the Trinamool Congress symbol and should have stepped down if they truly believed in their new political path.

He argued that resigning and seeking a fresh mandate from the people would have been the right course of action. According to Kabir, the voters should decide whether the MPs' criticism of the Trinamool leadership is justified.

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka,
Kolar-563 103.
Web:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:**bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in**
Date:15.06.2026

E-tender Notification

The Registrar, Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the various Tenders listed below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act, the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 10.06.2026 & 11.06.2026**. **(1)** Tender for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Desktops, Computers, Laptops, Printers, Scanners and Xerox machines for Bangalore North University, Tamaka, kolar - **Tender no: BNU/2026-27/IND0065. (2)** Suply of laptops to Svarna Gange Campus PG center, mangasandra, Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, kolar - **Tender no: BNU/2026-27/IND0066. (3)** Procurement of Chemicals Glass wares and Lab Equipment to SuvarnaGange Campus PG center Mangasandra and University college of Education,Chikkaballapura. **Tender no: BNU/2026-27/IND0067**

Sd/- REGISTRAR, Bengaluru North University, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:120/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Bangalore.
No: EE/(PN)/TEND/PR/06/ 2026-27 Date:16-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only-Single Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK KPPP Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through KPPP platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the valid contractor Registration and shall be submitted through KPP Portal. (Standard Tender Document KW1).

Sl. No	Name of the Work/Est Cost (in Lakhs)/EMD in Rupees
	CAT-1 Works
1	Improvements to road and drain at Ameen masid and surrounding area in ward no 31(70)kushalnagar for the year 2025-26. Estimate Cost : **Rs.20.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.25,000/-.**
2	Improvements to roads and drains at Kaveri nagar cross and surrounding area in ward no-48(71) Muneshwaranagar for the year 2025-26. Estimate Cost : **Rs.10.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.12,500/-.**
3	Construction of new culverts in ward Kaveri nagar in ward no-48(71) Muneshwaranagar for the year 2025-26. Estimate Cost : **Rs.10.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.12,500/-.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal : **19.06.2026 (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on :**22.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs** noon in the office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560 005. **(3)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders : **06.07.2026 up to 16:00 hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid : **08.07.2026 after 11:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Bengaluru North City Corporation

INDIA EUROPE FTA BOOST

EU-India trade deal opens new doors

NEW DELHI

A new trade deal between India and the European Union is set to supercharge economic growth for both regions. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-nation European tour, reports highlights how this upcoming Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will open massive markets and secure global supply chains.

Currently, a huge gap exists in their trading relationship. In 2024, the EU stood as India's second-largest trading partner, yet India accounted for a mere 1.7 percent of the EU's total global trade. The new FTA aims to fix this imbalance. Under the agreement, the EU will scrap tariffs on over 90 percent of its trade lines. This gives Indian businesses a major boost to increase their share in the European market.

This tariff reduction is a lifesaver for India's textile and garment sectors. For years, Indian exporters faced higher taxes than rivals in Bangladesh and Pakistan. By leveling the playing field, the deal will protect small businesses and create millions of local jobs.Furthermore, the agreement brings excellent news for India's powerful technology and services sectors. It creates clear, friendly rules for cross-border digital trade, which will help expand Global Capability Centers across India. Ultimately, this landmark pact allows European companies to pitch their businesses to India's booming middle class, while giving India seamless access to advanced European technology.

It is a true win-win that turns commercial ties into long-term national development.

QUICK READ

Chennai airport hosts anti-hijacking mock drill

CHENNAI

A major anti-hijacking mock exercise was successfully conducted at Chennai International Airport to test emergency response readiness. Led by Tamil Nadu Joint Home Secretary J Anne Mary Swarna, the high-profile drill simulated a realistic aircraft takeover using a passenger ground bus. Over three hundred personnel from the CISF, local police, and major commercial airlines participated in the operational crisis simulation. The massive security drill also involved coordinated tactical support from the Indian Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard. Officials stated the exercise successfully strengthened civilian-military emergency protocols to tackle evolving global aviation threats.

Minister Kunvarjibhai vows to end illegal child labor

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Minister Kunvarjibhai Bavaliya inaugurated a major two-day inter-state workshop, calling the elimination of child labor a vital humanitarian responsibility. Speaking at the event, which marks World Day against Child Labour, Bavaliya highlighted how migration often disrupts children's education and sparks exploitation. To combat this, Gujarat has strengthened local task forces and enhanced rescue operations for vulnerable families. Partnering with UNICEF and multiple states, officials are building a tracking network to ensure migrant children receive proper schooling and healthcare, proving that laws alone cannot fix this deep social issue.

Jagan demands maximum vigilance on voter rolls

TADEPALLI

Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has placed party coordinators on high alert for the upcoming electoral roll revision. During a crucial review meeting, the YSRCP President labeled the next four weeks critical for protecting voter lists. Jagan alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is abusing government machinery to deliberately delete fifty opposition votes from every polling booth. He warned supporters that restoring wrongfully deleted names is an uphill battle, making daily field monitoring essential. Jagan urged grassroots leaders and booth agents to treat this intensive revision as a mission to defend democracy and block administrative manipulation.

Minister Chouhan stresses advance monsoon planning steps

Agriculture Ministry urges advance planning as El Niño risks threaten Kharif 2026 season and rainfall patterns.

NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry has called for advance planning in districts that may face low rainfall as the El Nino weather pattern threatens to affect the upcoming farming season. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed preparations for the Kharif 2026 season in a high-level meeting at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi with senior officials. He said districts likely to receive deficient or uneven rainfall must be identified early so that crop-wise contingency plans can be prepared in coordination with state governments. The aim is to ensure farmers receive timely guidance and support if weather conditions worsen.

Officials discussed crop targets, sowing progress, and overall preparedness across states. Special attention was given to increasing cotton production through better farming practices, improved seed selection, intercropping, and moisture conservation techniques. The minister also stressed efforts to boost productivity and farmer incomes by promoting scientific agriculture methods and better resource management in cotton cultivation.Another key focus of the meeting was the Pulse Self-Reliance Mission. Chouhan said the government aims to reduce dependence on imports and increase domestic production of pulses such as pigeon pea, black gram, and green gram. The government noted that India is better prepared to handle a possible weak monsoon this year due to higher reservoir levels, strong foodgrain stocks, and improvements in agricultural planning systems.

According to official data, reservoir storage levels in May stood at 30.4 per cent of total capacity, higher than the average levels recorded during previous El Nino years. Officials said these measures are expected to help protect farmers from potential weather-related losses while maintaining food security across the country.

Former Bihar CM Rabri seeks housing extension

Rabri Devi seeks one-month extension to vacate Patna residence, citing Lalu Prasad Yadav's health and need for medical arrangements.

PATNA

Former Bihar Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council, Rabri Devi, has requested an additional one-month extension to vacate the government residence at 10 Circular Road in Patna after the expiry of a 15-day deadline set by the administration. She submitted an official letter to authorities seeking more time after the deadline ended, saying the family needs additional time to complete arrangements for shifting to a new allotted residence.In her request, Rabri Devi cited the health condition of her husband, RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, as the main reason for the delay. She said doctors have advised that he remain in isolation from other family members due to his vulnerability to infections. She added that a separate room had been specially arranged for him at the current residence on medical advice, and similar arrangements will need to be made at the new bungalow before the family can move.Lalu Prasad Yadav has been suffering from multiple health issues in recent years, including a kidney transplant in 2022, heart surgery in 2014, and another angioplasty in 2024.

DMK Chief Stalin targets TN government failures

CHENNAI

M. K. Stalin, leader of DMK, criticised Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's government over worsening law and order in the state. He said people are living in fear due to rising crimes against women and children and demanded stronger action from the administration.

He questioned government's claims about police efficiency and women safety force Singappen Padai and asked whether grieving families are being heard.

He alleged criminals are acting without fear and asked what steps have been taken to stop offences and protect public confidence.

He also criticised the Chief Minister's silence on recent incidents and asked when the government would respond more actively to safety concerns.

Tripura Sarinda receives GI tag, boosting cultural heritage and supporting indigenous artisans and traditional musical craftsmanship.

Traditional Sarinda receives GI recognition in Tripura

AGARTALA

Tripura has received a major cultural boost after its traditional musical instrument, the 'Tripura Sarinda', was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, strengthening efforts to preserve the state's indigenous heritage. Chief Minister Manik Saha said that the recognition marks an important step in protecting and promoting Tripura's folk traditions. He added that the GI tag will help preserve the identity of the instrument and support the artisans and musicians associated with it.

The Chief Minister said the recognition highlights the creativity and craftsmanship of tribal communities who have kept the musical tradition alive for generations. He also expressed hope that the instrument will gain wider recognition at both national and international levels. With this addition, Tripura now has four GI-tagged products, reflecting its rich cultural and traditional diversity. The earlier GI-certified products include the Queen Pineapple, traditional tribal textiles such as Risha and Pachra (Rignai), and Matabari Peda, a sweet offered as prasad at the Tripura Sundari Temple.

Officials said the GI tag helps protect the originality of these products and prevents misuse of their names while also improving market value and recognition. Tripura is already known for its Queen and Kew varieties of pineapple, which are widely grown in its hilly regions and valued for their taste, aroma, and natural farming methods.

The state government has also launched initiatives to promote pineapple cultivation and exports, including the 'Mission Queen Pineapple' programme aimed at expanding production and market access. The latest GI recognition is expected to further strengthen Tripura's cultural identity and support local communities involved in traditional arts and crafts.

BJP, Congress target Punjab CM Mann over Akal Takht remarks

NEW DELHI

Political tensions in Punjab intensified after leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress criticised Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann following strong remarks made by the Akal Takht over an alleged objectionable video linked to him. The Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikh authority, had earlier declared Mann "anti-Guru" and issued directions for social boycott after reviewing the video, which it said hurt Sikh religious sentiments.

Reacting to the development, BJP leaders accused Mann of repeatedly changing his stand and failing to accept the findings of religious authorities. Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon said that the Chief Minister should respect the decision of the Akal Takht and abide by its directives. Another BJP leader, Fateh Jang Singh Bajwa, said the Sikh clergy had already taken a serious view of the matter and that the video had been verified as genuine after investigation. He said the issue reflected badly on the ruling Aam Aadmi Party.

Congress leaders also criticised Mann, saying the controversy raises serious concerns about his conduct. One Congress spokesperson said voters in Punjab would respond strongly in the upcoming state elections. Meanwhile, Punjab minister Aman Arora avoided making direct comments and said the Chief Minister would clarify his position.

Chief Minister Mann has rejected the allegations, calling the viral video fake and part of a conspiracy to damage his image. He said the content does not match him and claimed it is being spread as political propaganda. The issue has sparked a major political and religious debate in Punjab, with strong reactions from both ruling and opposition parties.

LoC landmine explosion injures four soldiers

JAMMU

Four Indian Army personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were injured in an accidental landmine explosion along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. The incident occurred during an area domination patrol in the forward Kalal area of the Nowshera sector when a landmine was accidentally triggered. Security officials said the injured soldiers were immediately evacuated to a hospital for treatment.

According to officials, the explosion is believed to have been caused by a "drift mine", a landmine that shifts from its original position due to rain or terrain movement, increasing the risk of accidental blasts in forward areas. The LoC in Jammu and Kashmir remains heavily guarded by the Army and is often lined with landmines as part of anti-infiltration measures. These mines are intended to prevent cross-border infiltration and movement of armed groups.

Officials said the region has a long and sensitive border stretch where such incidents occasionally occur during patrol operations in difficult terrain. Security forces also reported recent drone sightings in the Rajouri sector, prompting search operations in nearby villages. However, no weapons or suspicious materials were recovered during the checks.

Authorities said anti-drone systems and surveillance technology have been deployed in border areas to counter aerial threats and reduce cross-border smuggling attempts involving arms and narcotics. The Army continues to maintain high alert along the LoC, where both ground infiltration.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Special Division, R.R. Nagara Zone-1,
No.301, 2nd Floor, Near BEML Complex, 3rd Stage,
BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru-560098.

No:BWCC/EE(SD)/RRNZ-1/TEND/01/2026-27 Date: 16-06-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, R.R. Nagara Zone-1, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Bidders for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
	(Two Cover Tender System)
1	Repairs and Maintenance of School and College Buildings and Other Allied Works in Mallathahalli Ward No. 43 at Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency Phase-IV. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000/-**
2	Maintenance and Repairs of BBMP Buildings at Yeshwanthapura Constituency. **(ST) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 48.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 48,000/-**
3	Repairs and Maintenance of School and College Buildings and Other Allied Works in G. Hosahalli at Lingadeeranahalli in Ward No. 27 at Yeshwanthapura Constituency Phase-IV. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 50.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000/-**
	(Single Cover Tender System)
1	Repairs and Maintenance of Community Halls in R.R. Nagara in Ward No. 45 at Rajarajeshwari Nagara Constituency Phase-III. **(SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,000/-**
2	Providing Rain Water Harvesting in All Parks at Rajarajeshwari Nagara Constituency Phase-II. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-**
3	Providing Rain Water Harvesting in BBMP Buildings at Rajarajeshwari Nagara Constituency Phase-III. **(SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,250/-**
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Primary Health Centers in Herohalli Ward No. 28, Yeshwanthapura Constituency Phase-IV. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500/-**
5	Repairs and Maintenance of Community Halls in Channanayakana Palya, Thippenahalli Ward No. 26, Doddabidarakallu at Yeshwanthapura Constituency Phase-III. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 19.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 47,500/-**
6	Providing Rain Water Harvesting in All Parks at Yeshwanthapura Constituency Phase-II. **(CAT-I) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 5,000/-**
7	Providing Rain Water Harvesting in BBMP Buildings at Yeshwanthapura Constituency Phase-III. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,000/-**
8	Repairs and Maintenance of Dhobighats & Other Fixed Assets in Ward No. 28, Doddabidarakallu at Yeshwanthapura Constituency. **(CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 15,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18-06-2026 onwards. 2)** Last Date and Time for Tender Queries: **20-06-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Document: **30-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid **(for Two Cover System): 01-07-2026 at 5.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid **(for Single Cover System): 01-07-2026 at 5.30 PM and (for Two Cover System) Will be intimated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Special Division, R.R. Nagara Zone-1, BWCC.

INDIA UAV EXPANSION

IAF pushes indigenous "Kamikaze" drone project plan

NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force has started a project with Indian industry to build long-range kamikaze drones an official said. The plan includes a limited tender to select Indian companies for one-way attack unmanned aerial systems being developed under the programme. The project will be led by the 5 Base Repair Depot at Sulur near Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu as the nodal centre.

Kamikaze drones also known as loitering munitions are one-way self-sacrificing weapons that fly to targets locate enemies and explode on impact. Under the plan the Air Force will hold intellectual property rights for the system allowing upgrades and changes through Indian companies. The drones are expected to operate up to 16000 feet and work in day and night conditions. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said India must become a global hub for drone manufacturing and strengthen self-reliance. He said conflicts such as Ukraine and Middle East show importance of drone warfare in modern battles. He added that India must build all parts including software engines and batteries within the country. Data from defence innovation programmes shows hundreds of startups.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi Pin Code : 585102
CIN:U04010KA2002SGC030436, Email : gescom.seprojects@gmail.com

No. GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Proj)/EEE(Proj)/AEE/AE-1/EV/2026-27/24871-80 Date : 12-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited invites tender for the work of "Construction of 11 KV line from 110kV Sankalapur to KKRTC EV charging station at Hospet for arranging power supply to 5000kVA HT EV charging station installation at Hospet O&M Section Unit-1 USD-2 Hospet under total turnkey basis, including supply of all equipment's/materials, erection, testing and commissioning under competitive bidding process from eligible bidders through **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.**

The project cost (excluding GST) along with bid documents for said work will be available in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **22-06-2026,** the prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
(Operations), Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/220/KSMC&A/2026-27

US led Gulf oil transfers under scrutiny

A reported US-linked maritime operation in the Gulf uses covert ship-to-ship oil transfers amid regional tensions.

DUBAI

A reported United States military operation is using a ship-to-ship oil transfer system in the Gulf that resembles tactics long used by Iran to move crude quietly across waters near the Strait of Hormuz. The operation involves coordinated convoys of tankers that switch off transponders and travel in staggered positions while moving oil between ships at sea.

According to reporting, dozens of vessels have taken part since May, with satellite images showing repeated transfers near Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates and Sohar in Oman. The system is described as risky because ships operate at night with minimal visibility, increasing chances of collision and miscommunication during long transfers that can last more than a day. Officials say the effort is aimed at keeping Gulf oil exports moving despite tensions around Iran and disruptions linked to conflict in the region.

At least ninety ships are believed to be involved, moving millions of barrels of crude and petroleum products through offshore transfer points monitored by the US military. Companies including state-linked Gulf producers and international shipping operators are said to be participating after compliance checks and approval procedures.

Analysts warn that while the system helps maintain flow of energy, it also raises safety risks and lacks full transparency for global markets. This reports the operation reflects new ways of managing shipping routes in a highly sensitive maritime zone, where geopolitical tensions continue to threaten global oil security and trade stability across major energy markets worldwide in coming month's periods.

QUICK READ

Tragic Afghan bus crash kills four

KABUL

A devastating mini-bus accident in eastern Afghanistan's Wardak province has left four travelers dead, including a mother, her young child, and two women. Local police spokesman Mohammad Yusuf Israr confirmed that the vehicle flipped over in the Saydabad district. Four other passengers sustained severe injuries, with several reportedly in critical condition. Deadly traffic accidents are rising across the country due to poor roads and reckless driving. This tragedy follows another horrific crash just weeks ago in Laghman province, which killed eighteen newly returned Afghan migrants, including ten children.

Iran executes protesters for waging war

DUBAI

Iran has executed two men accused of being armed leaders during widespread anti-government protests earlier this year. The judiciary's official news outlet, Mizan, identified the individuals as Javad Zamani and Abolfazl Saedi. Both men were hanged in Shahrud County after being convicted of "Moharebeh," a severe Islamic charge meaning waging war against God. Authorities also found them guilty of corruption on earth, harming public security, and burning property, including a local mosque.

Australia flags powerful El Niño formation

SYDNEY

Australia's weather authorities warned that an El Nino climate pattern has formed in the tropical Pacific Ocean and could grow into one of the strongest in decades in the second half of 2026.

The Bureau of Meteorology said sea surface temperatures in the Pacific have crossed key thresholds, confirming the development of El Nino conditions. It added that most climate models suggest the event could intensify further in the coming months.

Officials said around half of the forecasts indicate the system may reach levels not seen since the 1950s, making it potentially one of the most powerful events in nearly 70 years.

El Nino is a natural climate pattern that usually brings major weather changes across the world. It is often linked with reduced rainfall in parts of Australia, especially on the east coast, along with hotter and drier conditions. The bureau warned that such conditions could seriously affect agriculture, as Australia is a major global exporter of wheat, sugar, and beef.

Australia warns a potentially strong El Niño could form in 2026, bringing drought risks locally and heavy rainfall disruptions across global regions.

Lower rainfall and heat stress could impact crop growth and livestock production.

Experts also noted that the effects of El Nino may be worsened by ongoing climate change, which can increase temperature extremes and shift rainfall patterns. The weather system is also expected to bring heavy rains to parts of the Americas, while disrupting farming activities in parts of Asia, where food security concerns are already high. Australia experienced a severe El Nino event in 2023 and 2024, which led to one of the driest periods on record and affected farm output significantly.

Trump urges diplomatic Ukraine war settlement

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

US President Donald Trump called on Russia to move toward a peace deal with Ukraine following what he described as a positive meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy during the G7 summit in France. Trump said he had a "very good" discussion with Zelenskiy and other G7 leaders and added that he would do everything possible to help end the ongoing war. He also said Russia should take steps to reach an agreement and bring the conflict to a close.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the G7 summit held in Evian-les-Bains, where global leaders gathered to discuss major international issues, including the wars in Ukraine and tensions involving Iran. Zelenskiy said the focus of his discussions with world leaders was strengthening Ukraine's air defence systems and pushing forward diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the war. He also stressed the need for continued international support.

European leaders at the summit said they believed Russia was currently under pressure on the battlefield and that Ukraine's position had improved in recent months. They urged stronger backing for Kyiv to increase its negotiating strength. Trump also held talks with European partners, who encouraged him to avoid any weak or temporary peace arrangements and instead push for a stronger long-term settlement.

The summit also addressed tensions in the Middle East, including concerns over the Strait of Hormuz and Iran-related security issues. While diplomatic efforts continue, divisions remain among allies over how to structure future negotiations and how much pressure should be placed.

Palestinian doctor's detention appeal rejected by Israeli court

JERUSALEM

Israel's Supreme Court rejected an appeal seeking the release of a prominent Palestinian doctor who has been held without formal charges since late 2024 after being detained in Gaza. The case involves Hussam Abu Safiya, the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, who is among several Palestinian medical workers being held in Israel under administrative detention without trial for more than a year. The court's decision was reportedly based on confidential information that was not shared with the doctor or his legal representative, according to his lawyer and rights groups.

Abu Safiya's lawyer said the ruling highlights concerns about prolonged detention without transparent evidence being presented in open court. Human rights organisations have also raised concerns about fairness and due process in such cases. The Israeli prison service has denied allegations that the doctor has been mistreated. However, rights groups claim he has faced poor conditions, including limited food access and periods of solitary confinement.

Reports also state that Abu Safiya appeared recently in a court hearing via video link, where he appeared physically weaker than before. The Israeli military has accused him of having links to the Palestinian group Hamas, but no public evidence has been provided. Gaza health authorities and Hamas have denied the allegation.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUNILAKSHMI N W/o MADHU KUMAR N, R/o 1st Cross, Gandhi Puram, Whitefield, Bangalore, Karnataka-560066, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAKSHMI MADHU KUMAR.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VINODA R S/o RANGASWAMAIAH, R/o Thyamagondlu Hobli, Kittaiahna Palya, Doddabele, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562132, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VINOD R.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Amrutha Malli Rajaram Natesan alias Amrutha Arun Kuttuva D/O Malli Rajaram Natesan W/O Arun Sakthimanian Kuttuva R/O Flat No. 1809, VRR Fortuna Sarjapur-Marathahalli Road Janatha Colony, Doddakannelli Carmelram, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560035, have changed my name to Amrutha Arun Kuttuva.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MUIZZ AHMED**, S/o Waseem Pasha, Residing at No.26 21st Cross HSR Layout 7th Sector Bommanahalli Bangalore-560068, have changed my name to **MUIZZ PASHA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 16-06-2026 Before Notary R.BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shekar B L S/o Lakshmi Narayana G R/o 689 17th Main Road Near MEI Ground MEI Layout Bagalgunte Bengaluru Karnataka-560073, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Spurthi S to Vanshika Saanvi S aged 13 years

NAME CHANGE

I, **MADEEHA ANSAR** W/o, Syed Ansar Pasha resident of No 13, F Cross New Gurappanapalya, Dharmaram College Post Bengaluru-560029, have changed my name to **MADEEHA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 16-06-2026 Before Notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHMANTAK S/o RAMESHWAR NATH, R/o Sri Lakhsmi, 2nd Floor, No.145, 4th Cross, Shevantige Road, Arikere Mico Layout, 2nd Phase, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHMANTAK PANDEY.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NINGOJI RAO K.Y. alias NINGOJI RAO YELLOJI RAO KOLEKAR alias K.Y. NINGOJI RAO alias NINGOJI RAO K Y S/o K N YELLOJIRAO, R/o 200 3rd D Cross, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Near Ambedkar Stadium, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560079, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NINGOJI RAO YELLOJI RAO KOLEKAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Mrs. K.N. Mahalakshmi (deceased), resident of K.P. Doddi Village, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, represented by Sri K.N. Venkatesh son of Late K.N. Narayanaswamy, hereby informs the general public as follows: The immovable property situated at K.P. Doddi Village, under Hunasanahalli Gram Panchayat, Kailancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, bearing Khaneshumari No. 194/2 (Property No. 152900401201400524), measuring 34 feet x 26 feet 68 inches (subject to verification), is bounded as follows: East By: Property of Ramachandra Rao and Radhamma, West By: Property of Shivanna, North By: Property of Sakamma and Revanna, South By: Government Road. The above property has devolved upon my client through inheritance. If any person has any right, title, interest, claim, objection, dispute, charge, lien, encumbrance, or any other claim whatsoever in respect of the above property, such person is hereby called upon to submit the same, together with supporting documents, either to my client or to the undersigned advocate within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no person has any claim over the said property, and further action will be taken accordingly without any reference to such claims.
Contact Address:
M.C. Devendra, B.Com., LL.B., Advocate, Venkataswamy Building, Opposite Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Court Road, Ijoor, Ramanagara-562159, Mobile: 9448538346

BYC leaders protest jail trial inside Quetta prison

QUETTA

Leaders of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) staged a sit-in protest inside Huda Jail in Quetta, opposing what they described as a "faceless trial" and calling the legal process unfair and unconstitutional. The protest, which entered its third consecutive day, was reported by the organisation in a statement shared on social media. The group alleged that authorities have imposed strict restrictions inside the prison and are preventing normal access to detainees.

According to BYC, relatives and lawyers of the detained leaders have been waiting for hours outside the jail but are not being allowed to meet them. The group claimed this has raised fears that the prisoners are being pressured or harassed while in custody. The organisation demanded that all legal and human rights of political detainees be respected and called for an immediate end to what it called an "illegal and faceless trial." It also urged authorities to stop what it described as unfair judicial proceedings.

BYC leaders said they have been in custody for around 14 months and claimed they have faced both physical and mental hardship during this period. They argued that repeated changes in trial procedures show a lack of transparency and fairness in the process. Among those detained is BYC chief organiser Mahrang Baloch, who has been held since March 2025. Her detention has drawn criticism from human rights groups and political organisations. The Baloch National Movement also expressed concern, calling the proceedings unjust and alleging that the judicial process lacks independence and transparency in the case.

China, Myanmar discuss economic cooperation plans

BEIJING

China gave a formal welcome to Myanmar's President Min Aung Hlaing during his state visit to Beijing, marking a major diplomatic moment for the former military chief as he seeks wider recognition of his leadership. The visit included a ceremonial reception at the Great Hall of the People, where Chinese President Xi Jinping met Min Aung Hlaing. The trip is being seen as a significant step for Myanmar's military-backed administration, which has faced strong international criticism since taking power after the 2021 coup.

Reports say the visit gives Min Aung Hlaing a boost in legitimacy, especially after a recent election that excluded major opposition groups and resulted in an army-supported government taking power. China, Myanmar's largest trading partner, is expected to focus discussions on economic projects, border trade, and resource development. Key topics likely include infrastructure projects under China's Belt and Road Initiative and access to rare earth minerals from border regions.

The delegation also includes officials from Myanmar's Kachin and Shan states, areas that share borders with China and are rich in natural resources. These regions have also seen ongoing armed conflict between the military and ethnic armed groups. Experts believe projects such as the long-stalled Myitsone Dam may be discussed again during the visit, along with wider investment and trade agreements between the two countries.

Myanmar has been in civil war since the 2021 military takeover, which triggered nationwide protests and armed resistance. The conflict has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions of people. Observers note that China continues to play a key role in Myanmar through trade, diplomacy, and strategic influence, while also managing its own security and economic interests along the border region.

BRITAIN TARGETS RUSSIAN WAR FUNDING NETWORK

LONDON

Britain announced a fresh round of sanctions against Russia, targeting ships, banks, and companies it says are helping fund and support Moscow's war efforts in Ukraine. The measures include restrictions on the banking arm of Russian tech firm Yandex, along with two other financial institutions and dozens of oil and gas vessels accused of helping export Russian energy in violation of Western sanctions. UK officials said more than 20 oil tankers and several liquefied natural gas carriers have been blacklisted as part of the crackdown. The government also said this is the first time a Group of Seven nation has sanctioned ships linked to Russia's Arctic LNG 2 energy project.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the sanctions are aimed at cutting off the money, shipping routes, and networks that support Russia's wartime economy and pose risks to European security. Britain also targeted what it described as Russia's "shadow fleet," a group of ageing ships registered in different countries and used to secretly transport oil while avoiding sanctions. Officials said nearly 600 such vessels have now been sanctioned by the UK. In addition, the UK said it disrupted a covert procurement.

EBOLA SURGE WARNING

Red Cross warns Congo Ebola crisis may last a year

NAIROBI

The Red Cross has warned that the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has not yet reached its peak and could continue for up to a year. An official from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said that it is still unclear how far the disease has spread, but the worst phase may still lie ahead.

Health data shows more than 800 suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola have been reported so far, with at least 192 deaths. The outbreak involves the rare Bundibugyo strain, for which no proven vaccine or treatment is currently available. The disease is known to spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, and can remain contagious even after death, making control efforts more difficult in affected areas.

Officials said the virus is spreading across three provinces in eastern Congo, and the true scale of the outbreak is still not fully known more than a month after it was first declared.

Response teams have faced serious challenges, including a lack of treatment centers and resistance from local communities to strict health and hygiene measures.

Red Cross workers involved in safe burials and community outreach have also reported threats, verbal abuse, and attacks in recent days, according to officials. Health responders stressed that building trust with communities is essential to controlling the outbreak, saying that cooperation is necessary for survival in such emergencies.

Authorities and aid groups continue to expand efforts to contain the spread, but experts warn that the situation remains unstable and may take a long time to bring under control.

Iran Fights Back Twice To Hold New Zealand

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

Iran earned a dramatic draw against New Zealand in a thrilling World Cup Group G encounter

INGLEWOOD

Iran produced a spirited comeback performance to secure a 2-2 draw against New Zealand national football team in an entertaining Group G match at Los Angeles Stadium. The closely contested encounter saw Iran come from behind twice to earn a valuable point in front of a crowd exceeding 70,000 spectators.

The match took place against a politically charged backdrop, with some supporters expressing views related to developments in Iran and recent geopolitical tensions. Despite the atmosphere surrounding the event, the focus quickly shifted to an engaging contest on the field.

New Zealand made an ideal start when forward Elijah Just opened the scoring early in the match. The goal came after captain Chris Wood provided a precise pass inside the penalty area, allowing Just to finish confidently and give the All Whites an early advantage.

Iran gradually settled into the contest and found an equalizer shortly after the half-hour mark. Defender Ramin Rezaeian reacted quickest after a shot was blocked by a defender and calmly poked the rebound past the advancing goalkeeper. The goal sparked celebrations among the large number of Iranian supporters in attendance.

The second half began in a similar fashion to the first, with New Zealand once again taking the lead. Chris Wood played a key role, delivering a well-weighted pass that found Elijah Just in space. The forward made no mistake, striking powerfully to score his second goal of the evening and restore New Zealand's advantage.

However, Iran refused to surrender and produced another response ten minutes later. Rezaeian turned provider this time, delivering an accurate cross into the penalty area. Winger Mohammad Mohebbi met the delivery perfectly, directing a header into the net via the far post to level the score at 2-2.

As the match entered its closing stages, Iran appeared the more dangerous side and created several promising opportunities. The Asian side pushed hard for a winning goal, but New Zealand's defense managed to hold firm and preserve the draw until the final whistle.

Following the match, Rezaeian dedicated his performance to his family and the people of Iran, expressing gratitude for their support during difficult times. The result leaves Group G finely balanced.

Iran World Cup Opener Played Amid Political Tensions

INGLEWOOD

Iran began its World Cup campaign with a 2-2 draw against New Zealand national football team in Los Angeles, but the match attracted attention not only for the action on the field but also for the political atmosphere surrounding the event. The encounter took place in front of a large crowd that included both passionate supporters of the national team and Iranian Americans expressing opposition to the government in Tehran.

The match came at a particularly sensitive moment following the announcement of a peace agreement aimed at ending a conflict that began after military action involving the United States and Israel against Iran earlier this year. Iran's players arrived in the United States only a day before the match, travelling from their training base in Tijuana, Mexico.

Los Angeles, which is home to one of the world's largest Iranian communities outside Iran, provided a unique setting for the fixture. Many members of the local Iranian diaspora left their homeland following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and opinions within the community remain deeply divided regarding political developments in Iran.

While a significant number of spectators enthusiastically supported the Iranian team throughout the match, many also used the occasion to express political views. Numerous fans displayed the pre-revolutionary Lion and Sun flag, a symbol associated with Iran before 1979 and now frequently used by groups critical of the current government. The flags were visible throughout the stadium as supporters sought to distinguish their support for the national team from their political opinions.

Some attendees went further by openly supporting New Zealand or expressing dissatisfaction with Iran's team, which certain critics view as representing the state. These actions highlighted the complex relationship between sports and politics within parts of the Iranian diaspora community.

Outside the stadium, several hundred demonstrators gathered to protest against the Iranian government. Protesters carried banners and flags expressing opposition to Tehran's leadership while drawing attention to issues they believe deserve international focus.

Despite concerns raised before the match, security personnel permitted many spectators carrying Lion and Sun flags or wearing clothing featuring the symbol to enter the venue.

New Zealand's Garbett ruled out of World Cup with injury

FORT LAUDERDALE

New Zealand midfielder Matt Garbett has been ruled out of the World Cup after suffering a hamstring injury in training ahead of his side's 2-2 draw with Iran in their Group G opener. The whole squad's thoughts are with Matt at this time and we are gutted he won't be able to play in the tournament, New Zealand Football said in a social media post. Auckland FC forward Logan Rogerson has been called up as a replacement for Garbett, who plays for Peterborough United in England's third tier. Matty's a good mate of mine and I am really gutted for him, Rogerson said in an Auckland statement. It's a weird feeling to be honest, slightly conflicted as I am also buzzing to get out there and meet up with the team.

CAPE VERDE Stuns Spain with Historic WC Draw

ATLANTA

Cape Verde produced one of the biggest surprises of the World Cup so far by holding European champions Spain national football team to a goalless draw in their tournament debut. The African nation delivered a courageous defensive performance to frustrate one of the world's strongest teams and secure a historic point in Group H.

Spain dominated almost every statistical category throughout the match, enjoying nearly 75 percent possession and creating 27 goal attempts. However, despite controlling the ball for long periods and spending much of the game in the opposition half, the Spaniards were unable to find a way past veteran Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha.

The 40-year-old goalkeeper emerged as the hero of the night, producing a series of crucial saves to preserve the clean sheet. His performance earned him the Player of the Match award, and he was visibly emotional at the final whistle after helping his country achieve a remarkable result on its first appearance at a FIFA World Cup.

Cape Verde adopted a highly disciplined defensive strategy from the opening minutes. The team often defended with a five-man backline and packed players around their penalty area, creating a formidable barrier against Spain's attacking threats. While the European side moved the ball patiently from side to side searching for openings, the African debutants remained organized, composed, and determined.

The defensive effort was particularly notable because Cape Verde managed to maintain their structure without resorting to excessive fouling. The team conceded only one foul throughout the match, the fewest recorded by any side in a FIFA World Cup game since such records began in 1966.

Spain's tactical approach also came under scrutiny. Head coach Luis de la Fuente opted to leave exciting wingers Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams on the bench at the start. In their absence, Ferran Torres and Gavi struggled to provide the pace and creativity needed to break down Cape Verde's compact defensive setup.

The result brought back memories of Spain's frustrating elimination against Morocco in the round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup, where they also dominated possession but failed to convert their superiority into goals. Once again, Spain found themselves facing a well-organized defensive unit that successfully absorbed wave after wave of pressure. After the match, Spain captain Rodri acknowledged his team's disappointment but insisted there was little to criticize regarding their overall performance. He noted that Spain had expected a patient contest against a deeply defensive opponent and admitted that finishing remained the key area requiring improvement.

For Cape Verde, however, the draw represented a landmark achievement. The result not only earned the nation its first World Cup point but also showcased its ability to compete against elite opposition.

LUKAKU INSPIRES BELGIUM TO DRAW AGAINST EGYPT

SEATTLE

Belgium fought back from a goal down to secure a 1-1 draw against Egypt national football team in their opening Group G match of the FIFA World Cup. The European side was rescued by the influential introduction of star striker Romelu Lukaku, whose presence helped Belgium avoid defeat in a closely contested encounter.

Egypt stunned Belgium by taking the lead against the run of play in the 19th minute. Midfielder Emam Ashour produced a powerful strike to score his first international goal and give the African side a valuable advantage. The goal boosted Egypt's confidence and increased hopes of recording a historic World Cup victory.

Belgium dominated possession and created several opportunities to level the score before halftime. However, the team's finishing let them down. Winger Jeremy Doku missed a promising chance when he sliced his effort wide, while captain Kevin De Bruyne came agonizingly close with a free kick that struck the post.

As the match progressed, Egypt continued to defend resolutely and looked increasingly capable of preserving their lead. However, Belgium coach Rudi Garcia decided to introduce Romelu Lukaku in the 66th minute, a move that immediately transformed the game.

Just seconds after entering the field, Lukaku's impact was felt. The striker's presence caused problems for the Egyptian defense, and a dangerous cross into the penalty area resulted in defender Mohamed Hany inadvertently turning the ball into his own net. The unfortunate own goal brought Belgium level and shifted momentum in favor of the European side.

The closing stages produced opportunities for both teams as neither side appeared satisfied with a draw. Egypt continued to attack whenever possible, while Belgium pushed forward in search of a winner. Lukaku came closest to deciding the contest when he missed a golden opportunity to score with a header just two minutes before the end of normal time.

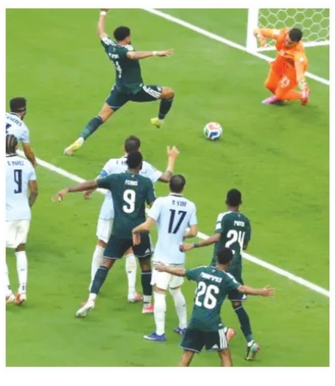
Following the match, Rudi Garcia praised Lukaku's influence and highlighted the psychological effect the striker has on opponents. The Belgium coach suggested that even when Lukaku is unable to start matches, he remains a powerful weapon capable of changing games from the bench.

Garcia also remained optimistic about Belgium's chances of progressing from the group despite the dropped points.

Uruguay held to 1-1 draw by Saudi Arabia in World Cup opener

MIAMI

Saudi Arabia and Uruguay played out a 1-1 draw in their Group H World Cup opener after Abdulelah Al Amri's opener for the Gulf nation was cancelled out by Maxi Araujo in a game where both sides profited from goalkeeping errors. The first half was dominated by Uruguay but Saudi Arabia took the lead against the run of play in the 41st minute when Fernando Muslera made a costly error on a set-piece, parrying the ball into the path of Al Amri who poked the ball past the veteran keeper. The majority of the second period was played in Saudi Arabia's half as Uruguay frantically searched for an equaliser and their persistence paid off when goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais also made an error when a save fell nicely for Araujo to fire home.



Football fans in Gaza continue following the World Cup despite displacement, destruction, and ongoing insecurity

Gazans Follow World Cup amid Hardships and Conflict

CAIRO

For many residents of Gaza, the FIFA World Cup has become a rare source of distraction and hope amid years of conflict, displacement, and uncertainty. Despite severe challenges, football enthusiasts across the territory are making extraordinary efforts to follow the tournament, demonstrating the enduring power of sport even during difficult times.

Among them is Fadi Al-Arawi, a player in the Gaza Strip Premier League who has been unable to compete professionally since sporting activities were suspended following the outbreak of war more than two years ago. Like countless others in Gaza, Al-Arawi no longer has a permanent home and now lives in temporary shelter conditions.

As the World Cup match between Qatar national football team and Switzerland national football team approached, Al-Arawi gathered with friends inside a school converted into a shelter for displaced families in Khan Younis. Wearing his old Gaza Sports Club uniform and medals earned during his football career, he attempted to secure an internet connection through a laptop so the group could watch the match.

Internet disruptions, electricity shortages, and ongoing security concerns have made following the tournament a challenge for many Gazans. According to residents, unstable communications and infrastructure damage frequently interrupt broadcasts and online access, forcing supporters to rely on alternative methods to stay connected with the competition.

The conflict has had a devastating impact on Gaza's infrastructure, with extensive destruction affecting homes, public facilities, and sporting venues. Even after periods of reduced hostilities, many residents continue to face difficult living conditions in overcrowded shelters, damaged buildings, and temporary camps.

Despite these hardships, football remains deeply important to local communities. Cafes and gathering places have become key venues where residents can watch matches together whenever electricity and internet access allow. In Gaza City, café owner Alaa Babli has invested in alternative power systems and backup batteries to ensure World Cup matches can still be shown after fuel-powered generators are switched off.

Supporters continue to gather despite concerns about safety. Many view the opportunity to watch football as a brief escape from the pressures of daily life and a chance to share moments of normalcy with family and friends.

Bharat Innovates 2026 Attracts Major DeepTech Investment Interest

Bharat Innovates 2026 generated substantial investments and strengthened global partnerships, boosting India's rapidly growing innovation ecosystem.

NEW DELHI

The second day of the ongoing three-day Bharat Innovates 2026 summit witnessed significant progress in attracting investment and fostering innovation, with funding commitments and advanced-stage investments totaling approximately $254.5 million. According to an official statement released on Tuesday, the event generated strong investor interest in Indian DeepTech startups and reinforced India's position as a growing hub for technological innovation.

Organized with the objective of connecting India's innovation ecosystem with international capital and expertise, the summit brought together global

investors, industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, startup founders, and academic institutions. The Ministry of Education stated that the gathering focused on accelerating innovation, strengthening technology partnerships, and advancing the commercialization of cutting-edge DeepTech solutions.

The day commenced with an innovation showcase featuring technologies developed by Indian startups and leading higher education institutions. The exhibition covered a broad range of sectors, including biotechnology, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, energy, mobility, space technology, and artificial intelligence. Participants had the opportunity to explore emerging technologies that could play a significant role in addressing future global challenges.

Several high-level discussions were also conducted during the summit, involving prominent leaders from industry, investment firms, and research organizations. These discussions addressed topics such as bio-innovation, advanced manufacturing, space technology, defense supply chains, and international investment opportunities. Experts emphasized the need for patient capital, stronger international collaboration, and effective mechanisms to transform research outcomes into commercially viable products.

A major attraction of the second day was the investor-startup engagement program. More than 80 DeepTech startups presented their innovations before panels consisting of over 50 global investors representing more than 10 countries. The participating startups showcased solutions across six key sectors, including space and defense, artificial intelligence and semiconductors, healthcare and medical technology, biotechnology and agricultural technology, energy and climate solutions, and advanced manufacturing.

The ministry reported that the sessions facilitated direct interactions between startups and global venture funds as well as corporate venture capital firms. More than 40 startups secured confirmed follow-up commitments from investors, highlighting the strong confidence in India's innovation-driven enterprises.

QUICK READ

TCS faces $70 mn exceptional expense after setback in US

CH NEWS, New Delhi IT services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Tuesday said it will make an additional provision of $70 million towards damages, interest and legal costs after the United States Supre me Court declined to review a lower court judgment in its long-running legal dispute with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) -- now known as DXC Technology. In a re gulatory filing, the compa ny said the US Supre me Court denied its petition for a writ of certiorari see king a review of the judgment passed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on June 15.

SpaceX shares climb above $220, nears Microsoft

CH NEWS, Washington Shares of Elon Musk-back ed space and satellite company SpaceX continued their remarkable post-listing rally, with the stock trading above $220 in overnight trading and pushing the company's market capitalisation close to tech giant Microsoft, a market commentary platform said on Tuesday. In a post on X, The Kobeissi Letter said SpaceX is now valued at less than $100 billion below Microsoft, while the stock has gained about 63 per cent from its IPO price of $135 per share sin ce its market debut on Ju ne 12. The rally has propell ed the combined market capitalisation of Spa ceX and Tesla to a record $4.4 trillion, exceeding Apple's market value and approaching that of Google, according to the platform.

Technical issue: AI Express flight lands safely

CH NEWS, Kannur The passengers of an Air India Express flight from Kerala's Kannur to Jeddah went through tense moments on Tuesday after the aircraft developed a suspected technical problem shortly after take-off, forcing the crew to return to Kannur International Airport. The flig ht, which took off from Ka nnur at around 7.03 a.m., detected a technical snag approximately 30 minute s into the journey. Following standard safety procedures, the pilots decided to return to the airport of origin instead of contin uing the international flig ht. However, since the aircraft was carrying a heavy fuel load for the long-haul journey to Jeddah, the crew had to reduce the fu el weight before landing.

'12 years of Naya Bharat Nirman': PM Modi reiterates focus on next-gen infrastructure

NEW DELHI

Marking '12 years of Naya Bharat Nirman,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the past decade has witnessed record infrastructure development across the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to building next-generation infrastructure to realise the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat.'

Taking to X with the hashtag #12YearsOfNayaBharatNirman, Prime Minister Modi stated, The last decade has witnessed record infrastructure upgrading. We are committed to building next-generation infrastructure for the people of our nation to realise our vision of a Viksit Bharat. The Prime Minister also shared a thread posted by 'MyGovIndia,' highlighting the country's infrastructure achi evements over the last 12 years.

The strength of a nation is reflected in its ability to connect people, markets, and opportunities. India's infrastructure transformation over the last 12 years has accelerated mobility,

strengthened logistics, and unlocked new avenues of growth. Greater connectivity is not only reducing distances but also expanding opportunities and strengthening the foundations of a more prosperous India, the MyGovIndia post said.

According to the thread, India's road infrastructure has witnessed unprecedented growth over the past 12 years. The length of National Highways increased from 91,287 km to 1,46,572 km, while the pace of highway construction nearly tripled from 12 km per day to 34 km per day.

More than 55,000 km of high ways have been added during this period, significantly enhancing mobility and economic activity across the country.

The post further highlighted the rapid expansion of India's railway infrastructure. Broad gauge electrification has increased from 20 per cent in 2014 to 99.6 per cent in 2026, making India one of the world's largest electrified railway networks. A total of 69,873 route kilometres of rail tracks have been electrified, while 25 states have achieved 100 per cent railway electrification.

In addition, over 1,330 Amrit Bharat stations are being developed and modernised. MyGovIndia also noted that Vande Bharat trains have transformed rail travel through improved speed, comfort, and efficiency. At present, 164 Vande Bharat train services operate across 274 districts. Nearly four crore passengers travelled on these services during FY26, representing a 34 per cent annual increase. The recently launched Vande Bharat Sleeper trains have further strengthened long-distance connectivity, recording full occupancy and serving more than 1.2 lakh passengers within just three months of operation.

Cough syrups to be sold only through licensed pharmacies

NEW DELHI

The government has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945 (Fifth Amendment), removing an exemption that allowed the sale of cough syrups in small villages without compliance with certain retail licensing requirements, according to an official statement on Tuesday.

The amendment was notified through a notification and involves the omission of the wor d 'syrup' from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945, according to the statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Schedule K provides exemptions from certain provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the rules fra med under it for specified categories of drugs, it said.

Before the amendment, the provision allowed cough syrups to be sold in villages with a population of less than 1,000 without requiring compliance with certain retail sale licensing norms. With the latest change, the exemption will no longer apply to cough syrups.

Now, the sale and dispensing of cough syrups in such villages will now have to be carried out only through duly licensed pharmacies in accordance with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drugs Rules, 1945. In addition, the Health Ministry said the amendment has been introduced to streng then regulatory oversight of syrup formulations and align the exemption framework with current public health and safety requirements.

Centre refutes reports on deep- sea energy pipeline

NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday refuted media reports that it is pursuing a deep-sea energy pipeline, connecting Gujarat to Oman and other Gulf countries. In a clarification, the Petroleum Ministry said it has noticed a series of media reports suggesting that the Government of India is actively pursuing a deep-sea energy pipeline, sometimes referred to as the Middle East-India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP), connecting Gujarat to Oman and other Gulf countries.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas wishes to categorically clarify that no such proposal is currently under consideration by this Ministry. There are no active discussions or negotiations with Oman or any other Gu lf countries on this project at any level in this Minis try, it said in a statement. This clarification is issued to put all speculation in this regard to rest, added the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Malta-flagged LNG carrier DISHA, managed by a Shipping Corporation of India-led consortium, safely transited the Strait of Hormuz on Monday with a cargo of 62,370 metric tonnes of LNG bound for Dahej in Gujarat, and is likely to reach India on June 18.

The government said it remains in continuous coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian missions abroad, shipping companies, and other relevant sta keholders to ensure the safety and welfare of Indian seafarers and provide all assistance. Port operations across India remain normal, with no congestion reported.

Andhra Pradesh Emerges As Promising Semiconductor Investment Hub

AMRAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday positioned the state as an attractive destination for semiconductor manufacturing, inviting entrepreneurs from Singapore to explore investment opportunities and examine the state's business-friendly policies. Speaking at the Semicon Ecosystem roundtable conference in Singapore, Naidu emphasized the state's readiness to support large-scale industrial projects and technological development.

The Chief Minister addres sed industry leaders and representatives from semiconductor manufacturing companies on the second day of his two-day visit to Singapore. He highligh ted Andhra Pradesh's commitment to a Speed of Doing Business approach, which aims to simplify procedures, accelerate approvals, and create a favor-

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu promoted Andhra Pradesh as a leading destination for semiconductor investments and growth.

able environment for investors. According to Naidu, the state is well-prepared to accommodate global companies seeking reliable and efficient locations for expansion.

During his address, Naidu stressed that India remains one of the safest and most secure destinations for international investments. He noted that Andhra Pradesh, with its strategic policies and infrastructure development initiatives, offers significant advantages for businesses seeking long-term grow th. He encouraged Singapore-based entrepreneurs to visit the state within the next 30 days to gain firsthand know ledge of the opportunities avail able. According to an official statement, the Chief Minister outlined extensive prospects in semiconductor manufacturing and revealed that a semiconductor production facility wou ld soon be established in the Rayalaseema region. He explained that the region possesses immense potential to develop into a major industrial center supporting sectors such as defense, aer ospace, electronics, fighter aircraft production, and automobile manufa cturing. The roundtable confer ence attracted partici pation from several leading semicondu ctor industry representatives, who discussed invest ment pros pects, technological collaboratio n, future growth opportunities.

Government clarified that using E20 fuel does not affect motor insurance validity or claim settlements.

Government Refutes E20 Fuel Insurance Claim Rumours

NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday firmly rejected claims circulating on social media that the use of E20 fuel could result in the rejection of vehicle insurance claims. Addressing growing concerns among motorists, the Press Information Bureau's Fact Check unit clarified that motor insurance policies remain fully valid for vehicles operating on E20 fuel and that no such restrictions exist.

The clarification was issued following the spread of social media posts suggesting that vehicle owners using E20 fuel might face challenges in obtaining insurance coverage or securing claim settlements. These claims generated confusion among motorists as the government continues to promote ethanol-blended fuels across the country.

In a post on the social media platform X, the PIB Fact Check unit labeled the claim as false

and emphasized that the use of E20 fuel has no impact on the validity of motor insurance policies. The government reiterated that policyholders do not risk losing insurance benefits simply because they use ethanol-blended petrol in their vehicles.

Officials stressed the importance of relying on verified information and urged citizens to consult official sources before believing or sharing such claims. The PIB also encouraged the public to actively report suspicious or misleading content in order to curb the spread of misinformation on digital platforms.

The clarification comes at a time when India's ethanol blending programme has achieved significant progress. According to a recent report by KPMG in India, E20 fuel has now been operationalized acro ss the country, marking a major milestone in the government's efforts to expand the use of clea ner and more sustainable fuels.

The report highlighted both the opportunities and challenges associated with the next phase of ethanol adoption. Key issues identified include feedstock availability, supply chain efficiency, infrastructure readiness, and the need for continued policy support as the country mov es beyond E20 fuel adoption.

The government has been actively promoting ethanol-blended petrol as part of its broader strategy to reduce dependence on imported crude oil, strengthen energy security, and support environmental sustainability. Increased ethanol blending is also expected to benefit the agricultural sector by creating additional demand for feedstock crops used in ethanol production.

GOVT PROGRAMME STRONG START

Centre's Disinvestment Receipts Cross Rs 15K Cr Mark

NEW DELHI

The Central Government's disinvestment programme has recorded a strong start in the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27, with receipts expected to exceed Rs 15,000 crore during the April-June period. The growth has been primarily driven by the successful completion of offer for sale transactions involving shares of several public sector enterprises.

Disinvestment remains an important component of the government's economic strategy, helping raise resources

while improving efficiency and market participation in state-owned enterprises. The latest figures indicate that investor confidence in public sector companies remains strong, enabling the government to generate substantial revenue through strategic share sales.

According to official estimates, the disinvestment proceeds have been supported by healthy demand from both institutional and retail investors. Market participants have shown continued interest in public sector stocks, particularly those with strong financial performance and growth potential. This positive response has contributed significantly to the government's revenue collection during the quarter.

The offer for sale mechanism allows the government to reduce its stake in public sector enterprises by selling shares through stock exchanges. Such transactions help improve public shareholding, enhance market liquidity, and attract a broader investor base while enabling the government to unlock value from its investments.

The anticipated crossing of the Rs 15,000 crore mark reflects the effectiveness of recent disinvestment initiatives and favorable market conditions. Analysts believe that strong equity market sentiment and improved corporate performance have created an environment conducive to successful stake sales.Disinvestment receipts play a vital role in supporting the government's fiscal objectives. The funds generated can be utilized for infrastructure development, social welfare programmes, capital expenditure, other growth-oriented initiatives. Higher receipts also help the government manage fiscal balances without placing additional pressure on borrowing requirements.

Economic experts note that the continued success of public sector share offerings demonstrates growing investor confidence in government-owned enterprises and the broader Indian economy.

Govt temporarily suspends Cell Broadcast System after alert glitch

NEW DELHI

The government has temporarily suspended its newly launched Cell Broadcast System, a nationwide emergency public warning network, reportedly following a misrouted late night alert that prompted concerns over system reliability.

The report from The Hindu said authorities have not disclosed specific reasons for the suspension, but that a technical malfunction may be the reason. An inadvertently misrouted alert from disaster management units in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh reached Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contact number triggering the precautionary suspension. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued an advisory placing the system on hold on June 12, 2026, and offi cials have begun a detailed tech nical review to determine when services can be safely restored.

The alert prompts phones to emit a hooting sound even when they are switched off or kept in silent mode. An alert allegedly issued by the disaster management units in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh caused phones to ring at midnight, the report cited sources.

Matthews Regains Top Ranking As Indian Stars Rise

Hayley Matthews returned to the top rankings while Indian players achieved significant gains after strong performances

DUBAI

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has reclaimed the No. 1 position in the ICC Women's T20I all-rounder rankings following an impressive all-round performance in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The latest rankings update also brought encouraging news for India, with Deepti Sharma and Shree Charani making substantial progress after their standout displays in the tournament.

Matthews returned to the summit of the all-rounder rankings after playing a crucial role in West Indies' seven-wicket victory over New Zealand. The Caribbean skipper contributed 48 valuable runs and also claimed the wicket of former New Zealand captain Sophie Devine. Her performance enabled her to move ahead of New Zealand captain Melie Kerr, who slipped to second place in the rankings.

India's Deepti Sharma emerged as one of the biggest beneficiaries of the latest rankings update. The experienced all-rounder climbed two places to third in the T20I all-rounders' standings after delivering a match-winning spell against Pakistan in India's tournament opener at Edgbaston. Deepti's outstanding figures of 5 wickets for 10 runs played a decisive role in securing victory for India and reinforced her reputation as one of the world's leading all-round cricketers.

India also celebrated significant progress in the bowling rankings. Left-arm spinner Shree Charani surged five places to reach a career-best second position. Her rapid rise has placed her just five rating points behind England spinner Linsey Smith, who continues to occupy the No. 1 spot among T20I bowlers.

Deepti Sharma enjoyed further success in the bowling rankings, moving up five places to fifth. Her rise strengthens India's representation among the top-ranked bowlers in women's T20 international cricket and highlights the growing depth of the country's bowling resources.

The competition for the top bowling ranking remains highly competitive, with only 20 rating points separating the top eight bowlers. This narrow margin indicates that strong performances during the ongoing World Cup could lead to further changes in the rankings over the coming weeks.

Jharkhand T20 League Draws Attention from IPL Scouts

RANCHI

The inaugural Jharkhand T20 Cricket League has continued to gain prominence as a valuable platform for emerging cricketers, attracting talent scouts from leading Indian Premier League franchises. Representatives from the Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru franchises arrived in Ranchi to assess young players and identify potential future stars for the world's most popular franchise cricket competition.

The presence of former India wicketkeeper-batter Naman Ojha, representing the Mumbai Indians, and experienced domestic cricket figure Gokul Sharma, representing Royal Challengers Bengaluru, highlighted the growing reputation of the tournament. Their visit to the JSCA International Stadium Complex underlined the league's increasing importance as a talent development platform and its potential role in shaping the future of Indian cricket.

The competition has enjoyed a successful debut season since being launched in the presence of legendary former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Since its inception, the tournament has attracted significant interest from cricket fans across the country while also securing strong support from corporate sponsors and stakeholders.

JHARKHAND T20

IPL talent scouts visited Ranchi to identify promising cricketers during the inaugural Jharkhand T20 League.

The league has emerged as an important stage for showcasing Jharkhand's rising cricket talent. Following the state's historic victory in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025, which played a role in opener Ishan Kishan returning to the national setup, several young cricketers have used the tournament to display their abilities on a larger platform.

Among the standout performers this season have been Sharandeep Singh, Rajandeep Singh, Prince Anurag Murmu, and Suprieyo Chakraborty. Their consistent and impactful performances have attracted attention from scouts and cricket observers, enhancing their prospects of progressing to higher levels of the game.

Speaking about the tournament, Naman Ojha praised both the organization and the quality of cricket being played. He highlighted the excellent playing conditions, particularly the well-prepared pitches that provide assistance to bowlers while ensuring competitive matches. Ojha also emphasized the abundance of raw talent in Jharkhand and noted the determination displayed by young players striving to advance their careers.

Gokul Sharma explained that Royal Challengers Bengaluru had begun its scouting process early as part of its strategy to strengthen its domestic talent pool.

Sourav Ganguly Files Complaint over Defamatory Social Media Posts

MUMBAI

Former India cricket captain and current Cricket Association of Bengal president Sourav Ganguly has lodged a complaint with Kolkata Police, alleging that a social media page was attempting to tarnish his image through misleading and defamatory content. Based on his complaint, a First Information Report has been registered at Thakurpukur Police Station, initiating a formal investigation into the matter.

According to the complaint, Ganguly accused a Facebook page named Sourav Ganguly Fans of repeatedly sharing content that he believes is intended to damage his public image. He also referred to media platform Sportzwiki in his submission to the authorities. The former cricketer claimed that the posts created a negative impression about him among the public and were designed to harm his reputation.

In his complaint, Ganguly stated that while public figures are accustomed to criticism and differing opinions, there is a clear distinction between legitimate criticism and content that is misleading, defamatory, and intentionally damaging. He emphasized that such actions go beyond acceptable public discourse and warrant legal intervention.

The former Indian captain requested law enforcement authorities to identify the individuals or groups operating the page and take appropriate action under applicable laws. He stressed the need to address online misinformation and defamatory campaigns that can adversely affect an individual's reputation.

Ganguly remains one of India's most influential cricket personalities. Widely known by his nickname Dada, he made his Test debut for India against England in 1996 and immediately captured attention with a century at Lord's. He followed that achievement with another hundred in his second Test match, becoming only the third batter in cricket history to score centuries in each of his first two Test innings.

WOMEN CRICKET TEAM ARRIVAL

INDIAN WOMEN ARRIVE IN LEEDS AHEAD OF CLASH

LEEDS

The Indian women's cricket team, led by captain Harmanpreet Kaur, arrived in Leeds ahead of their second group-stage encounter against the Netherlands in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The match is scheduled to take place at Headingley Stadium on Wednesday, with India looking to build on the momentum gained from a convincing victory in their tournament opener.

The Women in Blue began their campaign in impressive fashion by defeating arch-rivals Pakistan by 64 runs. The comprehensive win boosted team confidence and strengthened their position in the group standings as they prepare for the next challenge against the Netherlands.

The team travelled by bus from Birmingham to Leeds, enjoying the scenic journey through the English countryside. During the trip, players relaxed with coffee and engaged in light-hearted conversations, creating a cheerful atmosphere within the squad.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India shared a video of the journey on social media platform X, offering fans a glimpse into the camaraderie among the players. Several members of the squad, including Jemimah Rodrigues, Shreyanka Patil, Smriti Mandhana, and Shafali Varma, shared positive thoughts about their teammates.

When asked to describe two of the best qualities of teammate Arundhati Reddy, Smriti Mandhana praised her determination and commitment. She highlighted Arundhati's competitive spirit and her constant encouragement to teammates to maintain high standards during preparation and on the field.

Arundhati, in turn, spoke warmly about India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. She humorously revealed that Smriti is usually responsible for selecting dining locations during overseas tours and noted that her recommendations almost always lead to excellent food experiences. According to Arundhati, anyone seeking good restaurants while travelling should seek advice from the stylish opener.

Jemimah Rodrigues was asked what she admired most about Shreyanka Patil. She described the young all-rounder as a caring person who always looks after those around her. Shreyanka returned the compliment by saying that Jemimah frequently surprises teammates with thoughtful gifts, a gesture she deeply appreciates.

Fast bowler Ashok Sharma joins India A after Yudhvir Singh suffered a shoulder injury

Ashok Sharma Replaces Injured Yudhvir in India A

New Delhi

India A has made a significant change to its squad for the ongoing 50-over tri-series in Sri Lanka, with fast bowler Ashok Sharma replacing injured pacer Yudhvir Singh. The decision was announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India after Yudhvir experienced discomfort in his right shoulder during the tournament.

According to an official statement from the BCCI, Yudhvir reported pain in his right shoulder while bowling on June 13. He had also experienced similar discomfort earlier during a fielding session on June 11. Following medical assessments and consultations with specialists, the BCCI Medical Team recommended a structured rehabilitation programme to ensure a complete recovery.

The board stated that Yudhvir would undergo a graduated rehabilitation process under the supervision of the BCCI Centre of Excellence. Medical experts diagnosed the issue as a right rotator cuff injury and advised careful management to prevent further complications. As a result, the young pacer was withdrawn from the India A squad currently competing against Sri Lanka A and Afghanistan A in Dambulla.

Ashok Sharma's inclusion comes after an impressive run of performances over the past year. The fast bowler gained widespread recognition during the 2025-26 domestic season when he emerged as the leading wicket-taker in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025-26. He claimed 22 wickets in just ten matches, establishing himself as one of the most promising pace bowlers in the domestic circuit.

His strong domestic form earned him an opportunity in the 2026 edition of the Indian Premier League. Representing the Gujarat Titans, Ashok delivered several notable performances and collected six wickets in six matches. Gujarat Titans went on to finish as runners-up in the competition, further enhancing the visibility of the young fast bowler.

Ashok's recent move from Rajasthan to Gujarat in domestic cricket also attracted attention. He became the second prominent player after India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi to switch from Rajasthan to Gujarat.

MITCHELL MARSH CONFIDENT AHEAD OF BANGLADESH T20I SERIES

SYDNEY

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh is confident his side can bounce back from recent setbacks when they take on Bangladesh in a three-match T20 International series starting June 17 in Chattogram. The remaining matches will be played on June 19 and June 21. Australia enters the series after a disappointing 2-1 defeat in the ODI series against Bangladesh and will be eager to regain momentum in the shorter format.

Marsh acknowledged that the tour has been challenging but believes the squad has been strengthened by the return of several experienced T20 specialists. The skipper himself is back after missing the ODI series due to injury, providing a significant boost to the visitors.

Among the key returnees is hard-hitting batter Tim David, whom Marsh described as one of the world's best middle-order players in T20 cricket. He praised David's ability to change games with his aggressive batting and highlighted the confidence and experience he brings to the team.

Australia have also welcomed back all-rounder Aaron Hardie, adding further depth to the squad. Marsh said the blend of experienced campaigners and exciting young talent has created a positive environment within the team. Despite recent disappointments, he insisted the players remain highly motivated and are determined to produce strong performances against Bangladesh.

Litton Das Doubtful For Australia T20I Series Opener

DHAKA

Bangladesh captain Litton Das remains doubtful for the opening T20 International against Australia on June 17 after suffering a muscle tear during the third ODI in Mirpur. The wicketkeeper-batter said his chances of playing are "fifty-fifty," with a final decision to be made after further medical assessment. As a precaution, selectors have included experienced batter Soumya Sarkar in the squad to provide cover if Litton is unavailable.

Bangladesh are also monitoring the health of wicketkeeper-batter Parvez Hossain Emon, who is recovering from fever and a tonsil infection. Despite these concerns, Litton is confident about Bangladesh's prospects in the three-match T20 series. He believes the team has gained significant confidence from its historic ODI series victory over Australia in Dhaka, where Bangladesh secured their first-ever ODI series win against the visitors. Litton said several players from the ODI squad are part of the T20 setup and will carry that momentum into the shorter format.

TWO DEBUTANTS IN ENGLAND SQUAD FOR SECOND NEW ZEALAND TEST

LONDON

England have named their playing XI for the second Test against New Zealand at The Oval, with Jordan Cox and Sonny Baker set to make their Test debuts. The hosts have made four changes to the side that secured an 115-run victory at Lord's and helped them move up a place in the World Test Championship standings. Jofra Archer returns to the Test setup after making his last appearance in the format in December, while Matt Fisher is set for his first Test outing since debuting in Barbados in 2022. England Playing XI: Ben Duckett, Emilio Gay, Jacob Bethell, Joe Root (c), Harry Brook, Jordan Cox, Jamie Smith, Jofra Archer, Sonny Baker, Matt Fisher, Josh Tongue.

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